

**Statement of
Senator Susan M. Collins**

**Nominations of David Heyman to be Assistant Secretary for
Policy at the Department of Homeland Security**

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

May 13, 2009

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**I join the chairman in welcoming David Heyman as
the nominee to be the Assistant Secretary for Policy at
the Department of Homeland Security.**

**The Department of Homeland Security's Policy
Office is tasked with developing a comprehensive
approach to policy and planning for the Department and
bringing the various components of DHS, as well as its
state, local, and private sector partners, together under a
unified vision.**

As Assistant Secretary for Policy, Mr. Heyman would be directly responsible for establishing priorities and for seeing that they are implemented on a wide-range of homeland security issues. The Policy Office is now coordinating the Department's Quadrennial Homeland Security Review that is scheduled to be completed by December.

In addition, the Policy Office is responsible for reviewing the continued participation of countries in the Visa Waiver Program, and ensuring the implementation of the enhancements to the security of that program that were included in the 2007 homeland security law, which was authored by this Committee.

The Policy Office has already made significant strides in facilitating the conclusion of agreements with nations in the European Union to provide passenger

name records on individuals traveling to the United States. Having this information will help identify individuals who may pose a danger to the United States – before they arrive at our borders. I look forward to hearing how Mr. Heyman would further strengthen the Visa Waiver Program and obtain agreements with all Visa Waiver Program countries to provide relevant law enforcement information on travelers to the Department, as required by the 2007 law.

I also look forward to hearing Mr. Heyman's views on how we should reauthorize chemical facility security legislation and the SAFE Port Act, which I co-authored, and how the Department should address growing cyber security threats.

Mr. Heyman has a wealth of experience on homeland security policy issues from serving in positions both

inside and outside of government. Most recently, Mr. Heyman was the Director of the Homeland Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies where he studied a wide range of issues that are vital to the Department's success. He has also served as a senior advisor to the Secretary of Energy and as a senior analyst in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

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