

**Opening Statement of Chairman Joseph Lieberman
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
Nomination of David Heyman
Assistant Secretary at the Department of Homeland Security Office of Policy
Washington, DC
May 13, 2009**

We will move to our first nominee this afternoon, David Heyman, who has been nominated to serve as Assistant Secretary at the Department of Homeland Security, in charge of the Department's Office of Policy.

Mr. Heyman has a significant background in the area of homeland security policy. He is currently a Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and has led the Center's Homeland Security Program since 2003.

While at CSIS he has authored studies on a range of topics including the roles and missions of DHS, biosecurity, general aviation security and the balance between science and security.

Prior to joining CSIS, he worked in the Clinton Administration as a senior policy advisor at the Department of Energy and at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The Office of Policy plays a significant role within DHS, serving as the lead office for the development and coordination of department-wide policy.

When this office was established by Secretary Chertoff in 2005, he proposed that it be headed by an Under Secretary for Policy.

In the last two Congresses, Senator Collins and I have sponsored legislation that included this proposal. I still support the elevation of this position, and I expect to take up legislation that addresses this again this year.

Mr. Heyman, if you are confirmed, you will face several notable challenges in the coming months and years.

First, the Department is required by law to carry out the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review and report to Congress on the results by the end of this year.

It is critical that the QHSR meet this deadline so it can serve as a timely vehicle we can use to examine the roles, missions, authorities, and funding priorities of DHS and other agencies with homeland security responsibilities.

This Committee stands ready to work with the Administration to implement the results of this review in 2010, including through DHS authorizing legislation.

Second, you will be faced with the challenge of policy coordination within the Department.

Many of the operating components of the Department have their own policy offices, and responsibility for policy in areas such as cybersecurity and information-sharing has been ambiguous at times.

If you are confirmed, it is critical that you take steps to improve policy coordination across the Department, to ensure that policy decisions are consistent and are made efficiently.

Third, the Office of Policy has begun to play a greater role in the acquisition review process at DHS and is responsible for establishing strategic high-level requirements that can inform acquisition decisions.

This new mission of the Office of Policy will help to ensure that the billions of dollars of acquisitions that are made by DHS each year are consistent with the Secretary's priorities, and are developed in a way that avoids waste and unnecessary duplication.

Fourth, the Office of Policy has played a very important role in coordinating policy related to border security and terrorist travel in recent years, and is responsible for ensuring that all DHS efforts in this arena are risk-based and results-driven.

Since its inception, DHS has implemented a series of programs aimed at interdicting terrorist travel, including US-VISIT, ESTA, and WHTI, and it is vitally important that the Office of Policy be involved in the coordinating their current activities and helping to plan for the future.

Additionally, the current southwest border threat requires a strategic response that targets all of the Department's formidable law enforcement resources, and the Office of Policy should have a significant role to play outlining policy options in the fight against the Mexican drug cartels.

These are just a few of the critical issues that the Assistant Secretary of Policy must help the Secretary and DHS component agencies collectively address.

I am confident that you have the background and competence to carry out the responsibilities of Assistant Secretary for Policy, and I look forward to your testimony.

Senator Collins.