

**Opening Statement of Chairman Joseph Lieberman
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
Nomination of Caryn Wagner
Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC
December 3, 2009**

Good morning and welcome to this hearing at which we will consider the nomination of Caryn Wagner to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis at the Department of Homeland Security.

Although Ms. Wagner's nomination has been referred by the Senate to the Select Committee on Intelligence, Senate Resolution 445 gives committees with jurisdiction over the departments where nominees will serve the right to also hold hearings and interviews on the nomination – a right that we assert today.

We do so because the development of the Intelligence and Analysis Directorate, that everyone calls I&A, has been a high priority for this committee since the passage of the Homeland Security Act in 2002.

When that Act was being debated on the Senate floor, I said the provision that established the Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate “goes to the heart of the weaknesses that have been exposed in our nation's homeland defenses since September 11, 2001— and that is, the lack of information-sharing related to terrorist activities between intelligence, law enforcement, and other agencies.”

In 2007, this Committee was privileged to lead efforts in the Senate to pass the second 9/11 Act, the unfinished legislative business that came out of the 9/11 Commission, which clarified and expanded the responsibilities of the I&A Directorate and DHS and established the position for which Ms. Wagner has been nominated.

Under the leadership of her predecessors, former Under Secretary Charlie Allen and current Acting Under Secretary Bart Johnson, the Department of Homeland Security's Intelligence and Analysis Directorate has I think taken important steps forward to clarifying its duties, to implement its responsibilities within the Department and with its many stakeholders outside of the community. And I think the American people clearly are safer as a result.

But this is unfinished work. And Senator Collins and I have talked with Secretary Napolitano about it and I think she has a vision which is consistent with the vision that created this Directorate, which is not to duplicate other parts of the intelligence community, but to add value or something unique.

The two most obvious, to me, areas where they can add value is the integration, coordination and expression—sharing--of the intelligence brought forth anyways by components of the Department of Homeland Security, including for instance Customs and Border Protection, or the Transportation Security Administration, or Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or the Coast Guard, that was required under the 9/11 Act. And I think it is still a very important function.

These components of DHS each possess intelligence-raising capacity and intelligence products related to travel, immigration, and individuals' access to critical infrastructure which if brought together really can enhance investigative and intelligence efforts to protect our homeland and our people here at home.

The importance of this work was demonstrated most recently and I think most impressively in the terrorism investigations that led to the arrests of Najibullah Zazi, David Headley, and Tahawwur Rana.

DHS, the Department of Homeland Security, formed a Threat Task Force within itself to coordinate its support of these FBI-led investigations and provided critical information to the FBI as the investigations proceeded and suspects were subsequently arrested. I think the Department should be very proud of these efforts which represent exactly the kind of coordination that we hoped for when DHS was created.

Second, and an increasingly significant role played by the Department and by I&A particularly, in conjunction with the FBI, is to serve as the interface between the national intelligence community, through the DHS, and state, local, and tribal law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

The Department's efforts to support and sustain fusion centers around the country are critical to our homeland security, and I am pleased by the steps that Secretary Napolitano has taken to better coordinate these efforts.

I presume that as Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, if you are confirmed, you will play a very critical role in implementing this vision and ensuring that the Department is helping to build a well-integrated and effective national network of fusion centers. You will be responsible for coordination of intelligence assets within the Department and working with state, local and tribal law enforcement. You will really coordinate this effort and be an important part of what is our constant not only desire, but necessity, to improve our intelligence capabilities against the terrorists, who we know are plotting every day to attack us here at home again.

I appreciate the background you bring to this, Ms. Wagner. You have a very strong background both in the intelligence community and strong management experience, serving in the Army Signal Corps, at the Defense Intelligence Agency,

and with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence at the time of its creation. It makes me very proud that this Committee created the opportunity for you to have the last two jobs you've had. It's our small part in increasing employment in America.

She has served also on two occasions on the staff of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI), including most recently as the Committee's budget director. So you come to this job with some very relevant and important experience.

I thank you for being here and I would call on Senator Collins.