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U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

HEARING: "The Future of Homeland Security: The Evolution of the Homeland Security Department's Roles and Missions"

WASHINGTON – *Today, Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) participated in the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing, "The Future of Homeland Security: The Evolution of the Homeland Security Department's Roles and Missions." A copy of his opening statement, as prepared for delivery, is below.*

"Today's security threats are very different than those we faced when the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was first created. In fact, they continuously evolve. Many terrorist groups, for instance, have changed their strategy over the years, relying more on small-scale attacks, which are often harder to detect. Across our southern border, ruthless drug cartels have become extremely powerful, creating an incredibly dangerous environment for our border security personnel. And, in cyberspace, we are trying to protect our critical infrastructure, government information systems, and business secrets from the daily attacks from hackers and even other nations.

"To respond to these types of dynamic and ever-changing threats, we must take bold action and be ready to adapt when necessary. However, we cannot just throw money at questionable solutions for every new threat that emerges. We can't just create a new office at DHS or pile on a new responsibility for the department whenever we hear about a new threat. Rather, we must be smart with our limited resources and ensure that we're flexible and have strong plans and a strong workforce in place. We also need to make sure that we're measuring the effectiveness of the initiatives we put into place to protect the American people. If a program is not working, we shouldn't just keep throwing good money after bad. We should be willing and able to reassess what's been done and focus our scarce resources on what works.

"As DHS and other federal agencies evolve to address the new security challenges that lie ahead, I will be looking to ensure that our government is making smarter acquisition decisions – decisions that are cost-effective, based on risk, and validated by intelligence and sound science. Moreover, I will keep pushing DHS, the Department of Defense, and other federal agencies to be better stewards of the taxpayer dollars we entrust them with by improving their financial management practices and systems.

"I will also continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass comprehensive cyber security legislation so that our federal agencies have the tools and resources they need to protect our most sensitive information against new cyber threats that, in many ways, didn't exist in 2001.

"While we have made important strides in improving our security efforts, we know our enemies are always evolving and becoming more sophisticated every day. That is why it is so important that we work even smarter with our limited resources and find ways to get even better results for the money we invest in homeland security. I look forward to hearing from all our witnesses about the future of our homeland security and how we can work smarter as we evolve to meet new threats."