

**Senator Scott Brown**

**June 24, 2010**

**Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee**

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Collins. As you know, I have offered an amendment based on my deep concern about the state of the U.S. economy and the increasing threat recognized by leading security experts that terrorist or other threats could act to target and undermine our economic systems and the U.S. recovery. The recent financial crisis exposed serious systemic weaknesses in the U.S. economy and financial system, which, according to a top financial leader, could serve as a road map for those seeking to destabilize our economy in its current state. The serious nature of these vulnerabilities and threats, as well as a lack of clear understanding of these issues, were further highlighted in a 2009 Department of Defense War Game, in which the Pentagon simulated efforts by foreign actors to cripple our economy. Not only did the team representing China reportedly “win” the war game, it exposed serious gaps in the ability of our top security and economic officials to address or even communicate effectively about these threats. Experts ranging from former Directors of National Intelligence to leading business figures have highlighted terrorism or other threats to our economy, which may go beyond the traditional silos of how we classify issues as cyber or physical threats, are of great concern. My amendment is based on legislation I am working on with Senator Warner to more effectively analyze and address these challenges.

This current cyber bill goes a long way towards addressing the cyber-specific aspects of this threat, and I welcome the commitment to include report language to ensure that the analyses and reports of the White House and Homeland Security institutions created by this bill will deal with the cyber aspects of this threat in detail. I recognize that concerns have been raised that my amendment would go beyond the narrower cyber focus of this bill and possibly outside some aspects of the Committee’s jurisdiction. I am willing to withdraw my amendment at this time, but I intend to continue to pursue this issue in free standing legislation and through floor amendments. I look forward to working with the Chairman and Ranking Member on this endeavor, and hope that, if my bill is referred to this Committee, we can consider it at a future markup.