

Statement of Senator Ted Kaufman
Concerning S. 3480, Protecting Cyberspace as a National Asset Act of 2010
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
Executive Business Meeting
June 24, 2010

In today's world, the U.S. has military hegemony, but that is not to say that we are safe from attack. No enemy is likely to wage a conventional attack on our soil, but we remain vulnerable to irregular warfare and unconventional threats, such as insurgencies, improvised explosive devices, biologic and chemical weapons, nuclear and dirty bombs, and cyber attacks. Any of these threats have the potential to cause massive destruction, instability, and loss of life.

It is absolutely critical that Congress address these vulnerabilities. I believe that this bill is a great start in shoring up our defenses. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to thank you, as well as the Ranking Member and my colleague from Delaware for all of your hard work on this bill. This bill truly will make Americans safer by protecting against cyber attacks.

That being said, as Chair of the Senate Caucus on Global Internet Freedom, I would be remiss were I not to note that security threats, including the specter of cyber security threats, have been used before around the world to justify despots and dictators who seek to limit freedom of speech, press, and expression on the Internet.

I know that this bill does not go so far as to authorize censorship or the capricious interruption of communications. However, I believe that it is important to take a closer look at the emergency powers provisions because we should have assurances this will not lead to unintended consequences. As it moves to the floor, I want to work with you and your co-sponsors to make sure that we have the best bill possible, which protects us from threat while also securing the very freedoms which makes this nation great, and serve as a model for other governments around the world.

Statement of Senator Ted Kaufman
Concerning the Nomination of Dennis J. Toner
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I've known Dennis for over 30 years. He is a man of singular intelligence, character, integrity, and conviction.

As someone who has worked closely with Dennis while we both worked for then-Senator Biden, I can attest to his loyalty and strong leadership. I have always been able to rely upon his wise judgment and sound advice.

As a business consultant and former Finance Director for Senator Biden, Dennis brings a business acumen to the Board of Governors that will help the Postal Service successfully navigate the very turbulent economic times that it now faces.

Dennis will be an excellent leader and Governor on the Postal Service Board of Governors, and so I am proud to support his nomination.