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February 23, 2006

President Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Secretary John W. Snow
Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Secretary Michael Chertoff
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear President Bush:


I write to you with great concern regarding the pending acquisition of Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Navigation Co. by Dubai Ports World, a company owned by the United Arab Emirates. I find it grossly inappropriate that the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) would agree to such a proposal with significant national security implications. It is further incomprehensible that the Department of Homeland Security would agree to cede any control of our ports to a foreign entity. Such an act thoroughly undermines our ability to manage port security and compromises vital homeland security functions such as preventing illegal aliens and cargo from entering the U.S.

Also appalling is a 2005 GAO report that faulted CFIUS for limiting its definition of national security threat so as not to discourage foreign investment. This definition does not even take into account critical infrastructure and defense supply security. I am incensed that an unelected body would use its lack of accountability as a shield for choosing money over security.

Frankly, Americans are outraged. Media sources have printed conflicting reports, stating everything from the President has allowed terrorists to buy our ports, to an expedited application to enhance our relationship with an oil producer. The truth seems to be buried behind a veil of secrecy to protect "sensitive information." However, national security concerns trump any sort of misplaced loyalty or confidentiality agreements.

I ask for your immediate investigation of this matter and would like a response within 30 days detailing your findings and other relevant information. Please do not allow complacency and investment opportunities to overshadow your responsibility to the American citizens whose lives depend on you.

Sincerely,



Ginny Brown-Waite
Member of Congress