



Congressman Ben Cardin

Maryland's Third District



Congressman Ben Cardin - Maryland's Third District

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Dear Friends,

After much debate among the Republican leadership, I am extremely pleased that a vote was allowed last week on the Intelligence Bill, which included many of the unanimous recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. Congressional passage of this very important legislation is critical to our nation's security, and it was imperative that Congress pass it before final adjournment of the 108th Congress.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I support the creation of a Director of National Intelligence (DNI) with broad coordinating authority over all 15 spy agencies. The final bill also establishes a National Counterterrorism Center to coordinate and unify all elements of counterterrorism operations and planning.

However, I was disappointed that the final bill removed what I consider several important provisions. First, it removed language that would have allowed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to allocate homeland security funds from a per capita basis to one based on threats, intelligence, risks and vulnerabilities.

The final bill also removed several other provisions that would have helped Maryland's efforts to strengthen homeland security. It dropped a provision that would have directed the DHS to factor in proximity to past terrorist attacks and the presence of commuter and tourist populations in funding needs.

While I was disappointed that these provisions were removed from the final bill, the 9/11 bill is an important step in protecting our nation from future terrorist attacks. In the next Congress, I will be working to change homeland security funding so that threat levels and vulnerabilities will be taken into account in future funding.

Best wishes for a happy and safe year.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress

P.S. For those who do not wish to get my E-News Updates, click on the "unsubscribe" button located in the top right-hand corner.



Rep. Cardin Attends the Re-Opening of the Anne Arundel County Section of the Light Rail System

At the re-opening of the Anne Arundel County section of the Light Rail System, Rep. Cardin announced that more than \$28 million has been appropriated for next year to help fund completion of the 9.4 mile double-tracking project for the Light Rail System. In January, construction is expected to start on the northern portion of the system, from North Avenue to Hunt Valley. "The Light Rail is an important component of our regional mass transit system and is critical to our future economic growth," said the Congressman.

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Previous Survey Question Results

Would you support toughening clean air and water regulations to improve the Bay's ecosystem, even if it may involve additional costs?

Answer	Percent
Yes	86.80%
No	13.20%
Totals	100%

New Survey Question

Congressman Cardin Wants To Hear From You

Would you support replacing federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screeners with private security firms?

- Yes
 No

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