



United States Senate
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Senator Susan M. Collins, Chairman

For Immediate Release

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Statement of Senator Susan M. Collins
Chairman, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
Nomination Hearing for Edmund S. “Kip” Hawley, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security
July 18, 2005

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The Committee will now consider the nomination of Edmund “Kip” Hawley to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for the Transportation Security Administration. This is a vitally important position, made all the more important by the changes he would have to oversee in connection with Secretary Chertoff’s Second Stage Review of the Department.

TSA was established by the Aviation and Transportation Security Act of 2001. Signed into law on November 19th, ATSA followed the USA PATRIOT Act as the second major piece of legislation passed by Congress in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11th.

TSA was handed a great challenge under extraordinary circumstances. Despite some progress, however, troubling vulnerabilities persist. The integrity of airport workers with access to sensitive areas is not ensured, and general aviation – which comprises approximately 77 percent of all flights in the United States -- remains largely unprotected.

In addition, efforts to secure our other modes of transportation are lagging. Our nation’s seaports may well present our single greatest terrorism vulnerability, and, as the attacks last year in Madrid and just two weeks ago in London demonstrated, railroads and other commuter transportation systems are prominent targets. Looming over the many specific deficiencies is the lack of a comprehensive national transportation security strategy.

On top of these remaining challenges come the recommendations of the Department’s Second Stage Review. The overall thrust of the recommendations – to create a more unified and streamlined Department, with improved information sharing and coordinated strategic planning – is commendable. TSA will be an integral part of this restructuring. In addition to resuming operational responsibility for the Federal Air Marshal Service, TSA would be given the responsibility to harden our transportation infrastructure in a more aggressive manner.

Mr. Hawley has a strong background to carry out these responsibilities. In October 2001, he was appointed by Transportation Secretary Mineta to be Senior Advisor for the project team that established TSA. He currently serves on the Federal Aviation Administration’s Air Traffic Services Committee, and has served on the National Commission on Intermodal Transportation and the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee.

In the private sector, Mr. Hawley has worked as a supply-chain technology consultant, as chief executive officer at a global trade management company, and as vice president for transportation services at Union Pacific Railroad.

I welcome Mr. Hawley to the Committee and look forward to his testimony.

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