

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

January 24, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Now that you have signed into law the conference report implementing the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission, we as the conferees to the House-Senate conference committee are asking you to join us in seeking full funding for the resources it authorizes.

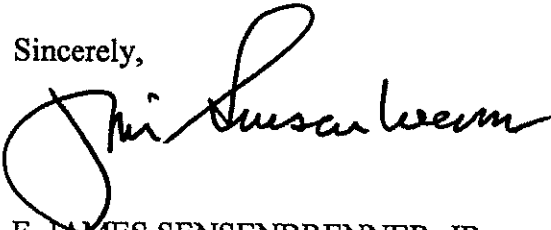
The conference report contains a number of important authorizations giving your Administration the resources you need to provide the country with the maximum possible protection against another terrorist attack. Among the most important, the report authorizes:

- a doubling of the Border Patrol over five years to approximately 20,000 agents in order to secure our borders against infiltration by terrorists,
- a tripling of the strength of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigators over five years to approximately 6,000 to secure the interior of the country,
- a tripling of immigration detention bed capacity over five years to approximately 60,000 to ensure that no alien terrorist will ever again be released into the community because of a lack of detention space,
- expanding the Immigration Security Initiative from 2 to 50 foreign airports to assist foreign airline personnel in identifying fraudulent travel documents used to enter the United States, and
- expanding the pre-inspection program to an additional 25 foreign airports so that passengers, including potential terrorist, can be thoroughly screened by U.S. government officials before they board flights bound for our country.

In addition, the conference report contains several other important authorizations providing legislative authority in the title on International Cooperation and Coordination, including terrorist sanctuaries, terrorist travel issues, assistance to Afghanistan, public diplomacy, multilateral diplomacy and other issues which we find important to protect against another terrorist attack.

Taken together, these authorizations will exponentially increase the level of security that our federal government can provide to the people of the United States. In addition, it will continue public outreach efforts. Of course, the promise of these appropriations will only be fulfilled if adequate funds are appropriated. Therefore, we urge you to include full funding for the first installment of these authorizations when you submit your fiscal year 2006 budget request to Congress. By doing so, you will be signaling your continued strong support for these authorizations and the product of our conference committee.

Sincerely,



F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
CHAIRMAN
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE



PETER HOEKSTRA
CHAIRMAN
INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE



DUNCAN HUNTER
CHAIRMAN
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE



HENRY J. HYDE
CHAIRMAN
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE



DAVID DREIER
CHAIRMAN
RULES COMMITTEE