



**One Hundred Eleventh Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515**

**STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER PETER T. KING
House Committee on Homeland Security
Before the Committee on House Administration
Hearing on
Review of the Use of Committee Funds in the
Second Session of the 111th Congress
January 27, 2010**

Thank you Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren, and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of funding for the Committee on Homeland Security in 2010.

As the Chairman stated, the Committee on Homeland Security finished the First Session of the 111th Congress with allotted funds remaining. I join him today in supporting the funding level of \$9,058,134 million for the Second Session as previously approved by the Committee on House Administration.

The Committee on Homeland Security serves an important role in providing oversight for the Department of Homeland Security. In 2009 we saw an increase in terrorist plots against the homeland. In May, four men were arrested for attempting to bomb a synagogue in New York City and shoot down planes at a military base in Newburgh, New York. In September, Najibullah Zazi – who had direct ties to senior al Qaeda leadership in Pakistan and Afghanistan – was charged with conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction, and Hosam Smadi was arrested for attempting to bomb a skyscraper in Dallas. In November, U.S. Army Major Nidal Hasan murdered 13 military personnel during a terrorist attack at Fort Hood, Texas. It was later revealed that Major Hasan had email exchanges with Yemen-based radical cleric Anwar Alwaki.

Most recently on Christmas Day, Abdul Farouk Abdulmutallab attempted to detonate a bomb onboard Northwest Airlines Flight 253 flying into Detroit, which would have killed nearly 300 people. This morning, the Committee on Homeland Security held a hearing on this terrorist attack – the most serious in our country since September 11, 2001 – and steps that are being taken to ensure a similar attack does not happen again.

In the upcoming year, I am hopeful that our Committee will also address important issues within its jurisdiction, including the terrorist shooting at Fort Hood, the Administration's decision to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, the security implications of civilian trials of 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four other terrorists in New York City, and the urgent need to strengthen border security.

It is also imperative that the Committee on Homeland Security pass an authorization bill for the Department of Homeland Security to ensure the Department has the policy guidance and resources it needs to fulfill its mission. The House should pass the authorization bill prior to House action on the homeland security appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2011.

It is critical that the Speaker of the House take steps in 2010 to consolidate congressional oversight of the Department of Homeland Security. As you know, this was one of the key recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, yet it remains one of the only recommendations by the Commission that has not been fully implemented. Over 80 committees and subcommittees currently exercise oversight for the Department of Homeland Security. This untenable situation results in contradictory guidance provided to the Department on key policies and programs, imposition of a burdensome workload that diverts limited resources, unnecessary distractions for senior departmental officials, and jurisdictional battles among House committees that impede passage of key homeland security legislation.

Given the important role the Committee on Homeland Security plays in overseeing the department tasked with protecting our country from a terrorist attack and being better prepared for natural disasters, I request that the Committee on House Administration continue to support the previously-authorized funding level for the Second Session of the 111th Congress.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I welcome any questions you may have.