

**Statement of Chairman Daniel E. Lungren**

**Joint Subcommittee Hearing**

**Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies  
&  
Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications**

**“H.R. \_\_, the ‘WMD Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2011’”**

**June 23, 2011**

It is now two-and-a-half years since the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism issued its report, “World at Risk.” Congress had asked the Commission to recommend ways to prevent the proliferation of WMDs, and their use in acts of terrorism. The Commissioners provided their guidance and we are close to enacting their recommendations, and eliminating the remaining gaps in our preparedness posture.

The prediction of the Commissioners that, “it is more likely than not that there will be... a weapon of mass destruction used

dangerous weapons and delivery systems in the Middle East and elsewhere constitute another major threat to the safety of our nation, our deployed troops, and our allies . . . The threat from the proliferation of materials and technologies that could contribute to both existing and prospective biological and chemical weapons programs also is real.”

The WMD Commission is measuring our government efforts to protect the nation from WMD terrorism. We have seen excellent progress in certain areas, such as laying groundwork for improved security of biological laboratories, developing a national strategy for bioforensics, and strengthening our nonproliferation regime. However, government did receive a failing grade on its efforts to enhance the nation’s capabilities for rapid response to biological attacks.

I welcome our witnesses this morning and I look forward to learning your views on what remains to be done, and how Congress can be helpful with these efforts.