



House Select Committee on Homeland Security Democrats

JIM TURNER, Ranking Member

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 2004

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HOMELAND SPENDING BILL DOESN'T GET THE JOB DONE

As President Bush signed the homeland security spending bill for 2005, Congressman Jim Turner, Ranking Democrat on the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, released a new report outlining the security gaps that still remain in securing America, and what Democrats will do to close these security gaps. *America At Risk: GOP Choices Leave Homeland Vulnerable* addresses the across the board failures of the Administration and Republican Congress to take the steps necessary to secure the homeland.

“Nowhere is the gap between the Bush Administration’s rhetoric and reality greater than in homeland security,” said Turner. **“The failure to address the security gaps which have repeatedly been brought to the attention of this Administration represents a serious failure of leadership. The truth of the matter is that the Administration is not doing everything it can and should be doing to protect the homeland.”**

The report lists the following homeland security failures:

- There are serious deficiencies in the system for inspecting cargo for nuclear and radiological materials. Yet, the Administration has failed to place the most effective radiation detectors – radiation portal monitors – at all ports of entry;
- The United States Government still does not have a fully functioning, comprehensive terrorist watch list;
- Only a small percentage of cargo on airplanes is screened for explosives, even though the technology exists to do so.
- The Bush Administration has secured less nuclear materials in Russia and around the world in the two years after 9/11 than were secured in the two years before 9/11.
- DHS has identified over 4,000 chemical plants that present a threat to the surrounding communities, yet DHS officials have visited only “a couple dozen” plants. Legislation to secure chemical plants has died in Congress for the second consecutive session.

“Americans with incomes over \$1 million received \$89 billion in tax cuts this year, but we are only increasing homeland security spending by \$1 billion over last year.” said Turner. **“When President Bush and the Republicans in Congress choose tax cuts over safety of the American people, they’ve made the wrong choice.”**

America At Risk: GOP Choices Leave Homeland Vulnerable is available at www.house.gov/hsc/democrats.

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