



# House Select Committee on Homeland Security Democrats

**JIM TURNER, Ranking Member**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 10, 2004

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## TURNER CALLS FOR TRANSFORMATION OF SOUTHERN BORDER

Congressman Jim Turner, Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, introduced a 130-page report today, calling for the transformation of the U.S. Southern Border to enhance security and promote economic prosperity. The report, *Transforming the Southern Border: Providing Security and Prosperity in the Post-9/11 World*, is a result of 6 months of staff investigations and visits to border communities.

To close the security gaps identified, Turner calls upon the Congress and Administration to:

- Create a \$1 billion infrastructure investment fund;
- Double law enforcement personnel along the Southern Border;
- Deploy technology to monitor the entire border 24/7;
- Screen all cargo trucks for WMD;
- Expand Detention and Removal Operations; and
- Require Spanish and other specialized training for inspectors.

**“The country is fighting a war against terror, but nowhere is the gap between rhetoric and reality greater than on our Southern Border,”** said Turner. **“Nothing short of this across-the-board transformation will meet the security and economic demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”**

*Transforming the Southern Border: Providing Security and Prosperity in the Post-9/11 World* demonstrates that even three years after the 9/11 attacks, the Southern Border is still porous and ripe for exploitation by terrorists.

The report focuses on ten major areas that show that the U.S. government is not taking the steps necessary to provide both security and prosperity on the Southern Border. Among the specific findings are:

- Last year, over 24,000 illegal immigrants from countries other than Mexico were apprehended, but then released into the United States due to lack of bed space;
- Vast areas of the Southern Border have no infrastructure or effective law enforcement presence to prevent illegal immigration;
- Under new DHS procedures, Southern Border inspectors no longer need to demonstrate a proficiency in Spanish;
- Apprehensions of persons from countries of national security/terrorism interest have increased;
- Border intelligence databases are not interoperable; inspectors must use eight separate databases to investigate a suspect individual;
- DHS has not deployed available technology (radiation portal monitors) to screen all truck cargo entering the United States for weapons of mass destruction.

**“The time for action is now,”** said Turner. **“The linkage between our border communities and national security has never been greater than since the 9/11 attacks. Only true transformation will provide the real security and promote the economic development that America needs.”**

Next week, Turner will introduce legislation to implement the recommendations made in the report.

The report is available on the committee website at [www.house.gov/hsc/democrats](http://www.house.gov/hsc/democrats).

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