



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

My Fellow Americans:

The September 11, 2001, attacks demonstrated the extent of our vulnerability to the terrorist threat. In the aftermath of these tragic events, we, as a Nation, have demonstrated firm resolve in protecting our critical infrastructures and key assets from further terrorist exploitation. In this effort, government at all levels, the private sector, and concerned citizens across the country have begun an important partnership and commitment to action.

To address the threat posed by those who wish to harm the United States, critical infrastructure owners and operators are assessing their vulnerabilities and increasing their investment in security. State and municipal governments across the country continue to take important steps to identify and assure the protection of key assets and services within their jurisdictions. Federal departments and agencies are working closely with industry to take stock of key assets and facilitate protective actions, while improving the timely exchange of important security-related information. The Office of Homeland Security is working closely with key public- and private-sector entities to implement the Homeland Security Advisory System across all levels of government and the critical sectors. Finally, I commend the Members of Congress for working diligently to pass comprehensive legislation that will unify our national critical infrastructure and key asset protection efforts in the new Department of Homeland Security.

Much work remains, however, to insure that we sustain these initial efforts over the long term. This *National Strategy for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Key Assets* represents the first milestone in the road ahead. Consistent with the *National Strategy for Homeland Security*, this document identifies a clear set of goals and objectives and outlines the guiding principles that will underpin our efforts to secure the infrastructures and assets vital to our public health and safety, national security, governance, economy, and public confidence. It provides a unifying structure, defines roles and responsibilities, and identifies major initiatives that will drive our near-term protection priorities. Most importantly, it establishes a foundation for building and fostering a cooperative environment in which government, industry, and private citizens can work together to protect our critical infrastructures and key assets.

The *National Strategy for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Key Assets* is the product of many months of consultation across a broad range of public- and private-sector stakeholders. It includes extensive input from the federal departments and agencies, state and municipal government, private-sector infrastructure owners and operators, the scientific and technology community, professional associations, research institutes, and concerned citizens across the country. This document is a truly national strategy.

As we work to implement this *Strategy*, it is important to remember that protection of our critical infrastructures and key assets is a shared responsibility. Accordingly, the success of our protective efforts will require close cooperation between government and the private sector at all levels. Each of us has an extremely important role to play in protecting the infrastructures and assets that are the basis for our daily lives and that represent important components of our national power and prestige.

The terrorist enemy that we face is highly determined, patient, and adaptive. In confronting this threat, protecting our critical infrastructures and key assets represents an enormous challenge. We must remain united in our resolve, tenacious in our approach, and harmonious in our actions to overcome this challenge and secure the foundations of our Nation and way of life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.