

**Opening Markup Statement
Chairman Joe Lieberman
August 1, 2007**

Good morning. We have a full agenda today of legislation and nominations that require Committee referrals, so, in the interest of time, I will provide a quick review of the issues so we can get to work as quickly as possible.

One of the most important items before us today is the nomination of Congressman Jim Nussle to be director of the Office of Management and Budget. This Committee held a hearing just last week on his nomination. At that time, I asked the Congressman to promise to work with Congress in a cooperative manner to resolve looming disagreements over Fiscal Year 2008 funding levels, and he said he would. The stakes are simply too high for the debate over the federal budget to deteriorate into a series of showdowns that could eventually lead to a government shutdown.

The Budget Committee also held a hearing last week, after which Senator Conrad said he would consult with Democratic leaders before scheduling a vote on the nomination.

In addition to the Congressman Nussle's nomination, we will vote on the nomination of Dennis Schrader to be Deputy Administrator for National Preparedness at FEMA.

Among the major pieces of legislation we will debate today is the Accountability in Government Contracting Act of 2007, S.680, introduced by Senator Collins in a bid to address persistent and infuriating problems in managing over \$400 billion in federal contracts every year. I am happy to be a principle co-sponsor of this legislation that would bring greater competition and accountability to the federal procurement process and strengthen the acquisition workforce.

We will also mark up an original bill by Senator Landrieu to speed up recovery on the Gulf Coast, which remains a major concern almost two years after Hurricane Katrina and Rita made landfall.

Another item on our agenda is the Presidential Library Donation Reform Act of 2007, H.R. 1254, which will require greater disclosure of fundraising for presidential libraries.

We will also vote on an extension of the breast cancer stamp through the end of 2009, which has already raised millions of dollars to combat this deadly disease.

We have many other pieces of legislation to consider so, unless Senator Collins has a statement, let's get to work.