

**Opening Markup Statement
Chairman Joe Lieberman
November 14, 2007**

Good morning. Thank you all for being here. We have seven bills on today's agenda, three nominations, and a series of postal naming bills. I believe all of these measures have broad bi-partisan support, so hopefully we can move through them quickly. I will just mention a few of the key items on today's agenda.

The Inspector General Reform Act is a bipartisan effort drafted by Senators McCaskill, Collins, Coburn and myself that refines the post-Watergate Inspector General Act of 1978, based on our experiences over the last few years. This bill reflects broad support for the outstanding work of our Inspectors General, whose mission is to keep federal agencies answerable to the public interest. It both strengthens the independence they need to be successful while ensuring they too are held accountable.

The National Bombing Prevention Act is the result of Senator Collins' strong and consistent leadership on homeland security issues. I am pleased to join her as an original sponsor of the legislation. Among other provisions, this legislation adds resources to the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Bombing Prevention so that we can strengthen our ability to deter,

detect, prevent, and respond to attacks using improvised explosive devices here in the United States.

Finally, I want to say a word about the E-Government Reauthorization Act. The Committee passed the original E-Government Act in 2002 in an effort to make government information and services more readily accessible to the American people via the Internet. Today we are seeking to extend the life of the E-Government Act for another five years. And we have improved it to better protect privacy and make government information more readily available to private search engines.

We have four other bills to consider today, including the Telework Enhancement Act, the Preservation of Records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post Civil War Reconstruction Act, a bill to establish a pilot program for the Expedited Disposal of Federal Real Property, and a bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.

And we have three nominations: Robert Jamison, to be Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security for National Protection and Programs; Wiley Ashley III, to be assistant FEMA administrator; and the Honorable Ellen Williams for the Postal Board of Governors.

So, without further ado, and unless Senator Collins has a statement, let us proceed.

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