

NEWS ALERT



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Homeland Security Committee

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson

“The Resilient Homeland: How DHS Intelligence Should Empower America to Prepare for, Prevent, and Withstand Terrorist Attacks”

May 15, 2008 (Washington) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment Subcommittee hearing entitled “The Resilient Homeland: How DHS Intelligence Should Empower America to Prepare for, Prevent, and Withstand Terrorist Attacks”:

“A risk-based approach to homeland security requires a clear understanding of what threatens us most so we can be prepared. Intelligence that helps State, local, tribal, and private sector leaders decide where to direct resources before a disaster strikes – and to plan for its aftermath – is empowering.

It makes America resilient and prepared, *not* scared. 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina showed that we weren't prepared.

Promoting a culture of resiliency, however, moves us forward. And it advances ‘homeland security’ in its truest sense by making the American people secure in the knowledge that the nation can weather any storm.

The Department’s Office of Intelligence and Analysis must play a key part in this effort. A resilient nation needs a DHS Intelligence Office that can survive a disaster in the National Capital Region by having systems and staff in reserve. A resilient nation needs a DHS Intelligence Office that identifies the greatest threats and prepare communities for them – helping them ‘bounce back’ in the face of adversity.

A resilient nation needs a DHS Intelligence Office that learns from the lessons of the past and makes us safer – and better prepared – as a result.”

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