

Opening Statement
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
Business Meeting
Chairman Joe Lieberman
July 30, 2008

Good morning and welcome to today's business meeting. This morning we have a full agenda: six pieces of legislation, five nominations, - and eight postal naming bills. So I'd like to get the ball rolling.

At the top of the agenda are our nominations, the most prominent of which is Gus Coldebella, nominated as General Counsel to the Department of Homeland Security. In addition to Mr. Coldebella, we will consider the nomination of James Williams for Administrator of the General Services Administration, and three associate judges for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Among the bills before the Committee today is S. 2583, the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2008. This bill would strengthen the transparency of agency payments, help to prevent improper payments and recover them if unavoidable, while holding agencies accountable. Senators Carper, McCaskill and Coburn have worked hard to reach agreement on this measure. This is good government at work. I support the substitute and hope we can report it out today. Also on our legislative list is S. 3176, Senator Landrieu's Disaster Recovery Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment Act of 2008, which expands the Stafford Act to provide additional mental health and substance abuse

treatment to people affected by disasters, including first responders. It is a very worthy bill, and I support it.

Unless Senator Collins has a statement, let's get down to work.