



One Hundred Tenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2009

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins:

I write in full support of Governor Janet Napolitano's nomination to be the third Secretary of Homeland Security and urge her swift confirmation by the United States Senate. Governor Napolitano is exceptionally qualified for this position and has the experience and perspective to transform the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) into a successful and responsive agency.

In Arizona, Governor Napolitano has worked on issues vital to the Department's mission. As a U.S. Attorney, she led the Arizona terrorism investigation into the Oklahoma City bombing; as Attorney General, she helped to break up human smuggling rings; and, as Governor, she has implemented the first State homeland security strategy in the Nation. Moreover, Governor Napolitano is a leader in coordinating Federal, State, and local homeland security efforts, presiding over large-scale disaster preparedness exercises and emergency plans.

As you know, the mission of DHS is vital to our national security. Recent events have demonstrated that transitioning governments are targets for terrorist attacks. Therefore, it is imperative that DHS has effective leadership immediately. Governor Napolitano will provide the leadership that our country needs.

The Committee and I stand ready to provide you with any necessary support to ensure Governor Napolitano's swift confirmation. I look forward to working together during the 111th Congress to keep our country free and secure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bennie G. Thompson".

Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security

CC: Honorable Susan M. Collins