

**NEWS ALERT**



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Homeland Security Committee**

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Prepared Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson**

### **“Chemical Security: The Implementation of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards and the Road Ahead”**

**Wednesday, December 12, 2007 – 10AM**

“This is the second hearing that the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection has held on the subject of Chemical Facility Security in this Congress.

“Both Chairwoman Jackson-Lee and I recognize the significance of chemical security. Fortunately, we share that sentiment with many Committee Members.

“There has been a great deal of speculation from all sides about the current regulations and any legislation to be enacted in the future. I hope today’s hearing will give us an opportunity to move away from speculation and move towards actual facts with those who have experience with chemical facility security regulations.

“One of my goals as Chairman of this Committee is to ensure the American people that we are doing all that we can to secure America. While dangerous chemicals do pose a real threat, we don’t want to over-exaggerate the issue. We also want to avoid creating fear and confusion for the American public. Instead, we want to ensure America freedom from fear of a chemical attack.

“In order for our Committee to provide that freedom, we must be effective in addressing any and all vulnerabilities. We can do this by implementing smart, aggressive measures to protect our chemical facilities and the populations surrounding them. While the CFATS regulations have been in place for a few weeks, it is important for us to receive feedback on the implementation of the regulations from all sides of the issue. In addition, the State of New Jersey has its own chemical security regulations in place, and this Committee can learn a great deal from its experience.

“The CFATS regulations will sunset in October of 2009 and I feel strongly that Congress and this Committee should consider making these regulations permanent. I look forward to this discussion and the road ahead, I thank the Chairwoman, and I yield back.”

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