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## SENATOR CLAIRE MCCASKILL FIGHTING TO SECURE OUR HOMELAND

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### **Strengthened Weapons of Mass Destruction Prevention and Preparedness.**

Sen. McCaskill has been a strong supporter of legislation intended to keep weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) out of the hands of terrorists and to help the nation prepare for a potential WMD attack. In 2008, McCaskill joined with Senators Joe Lieberman (I-CT) and Susan Collins (R-ME) to introduce the Weapons of Mass Destruction Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2009 (S. 1649), legislation that would provide a framework for preventing and preparing for biological and other WMD attacks. In 2007, McCaskill was a strong supporter of the Improving America's Security Act (S. 4), which gave first responders additional tools to keep their cities and towns safe, made it more difficult for potential terrorists to travel in our country, advanced efforts to secure our mass transit systems, and improved intelligence and information sharing at all levels government.

### **Authored Bill to Close Loophole That Gave Terrorists Access to American Planes.**

In 2008, Sen. McCaskill introduced the SAFE AIR Act (S. 3090), legislation intended to close a dangerous loophole in aviation security regulations that, in at least one instance, allowed a member of al Qaeda to perform maintenance work on an American passenger plane. McCaskill's bill addressed the security concerns arising from the growing use of foreign aircraft repair facilities by U.S. air carriers. A 2003 DOT IG report on the use of these facilities revealed several serious security concerns, including that an al Qaeda member was found to be working at a repair station in Singapore that regularly services American passenger planes. McCaskill's bill required certified foreign repair stations to comply with TSA security regulations. Key pieces of Sen. McCaskill's legislation were included in the Federal Aviation Administration's reauthorization passed in March 2012.

### **Led Effort to Bolster Security at Laboratories Working with Dangerous Agents.**

During the committee markup of the Weapons of Mass Destruction and Preparedness Act of 2009 (S. 1649), Sen. McCaskill successfully added an amendment to bolster security in laboratories that work with dangerous biological and chemical agents. McCaskill's amendment was designed to keep these potentially dangerous materials out of the hands of terrorists by authorizing the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to halt research at facilities with security violations.

### **Improved America's Ability to Respond to Terrorist Attacks and Disasters.**

In 2007, Sen. McCaskill was a strong supporter of the Improving America's Security Act (S. 4), which took critical steps towards bolstering our nation's ability to respond to terrorist attacks and other disasters by authorizing \$3.3 billion in grants to improve interoperable communications between local, regional, state and federal agencies.

In 2008, McCaskill cosponsored the Weapons of Mass Destruction Prevention and Preparedness Act (S. 1649), legislation that would authorize tens of millions of dollars in funding for state and local preparedness grants. McCaskill also cosponsored legislation to reauthorize the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant program that provides grants to cities and towns to hire police officers, modernize equipment and reduce crime.

**Authored Legislation to Secure Sensitive Electronic Government Files.** In 2010, Sen. McCaskill introduced the Secure Federal File Sharing Act (S. 3484), legislation intended to address the risk posed by peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing programs to the nation's security. McCaskill's amendment responded to revelations that sensitive national security information – including the names and home addresses of hundreds of U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers – had been inadvertently leaked to the public through such P2P applications. McCaskill's amendment would have required the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance prohibiting installation and use of P2P software by government employees and contractors on all federal computers, systems, and networks.

**Supported Firefighters and First Responders.** Sen. McCaskill has supported many issues of importance to the fire fighter and first responder community in the Senate. In September 2008, she supported the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2008, which provided funding for AFG and SAFER grants. In February 2009, she supported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which authorized funding for fire station construction and a waiver of matching requirements for SAFER grants. In May 2009, she supported the Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2009 in committee. In December 2010, she supported a motion to invoke cloture on the Public Safety Employee Corporation Act of 2010, which guarantees collective bargaining rights for states and local public safety officers. Also in December 2010, McCaskill supported the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 for 9/11 first responders.

**Supported Legislation to Establish a Nationwide First Responder Broadband Network as Recommended by the 9/11 Commission.** Sen. McCaskill has been a strong supporter of creating a nationwide, wireless broadband network for first responders, a key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission. In June 2011, she supported the SPECTRUM Act. The legislation would provide public safety officials across the country a dedicated portion of wireless airwaves to build out an interoperable public safety communications network that will allow police, fire and other public safety officials to quickly and reliably send and receive voice, images and other data during emergencies. By auctioning off excess spectrum, the bill provides dedicated funding to get the network up-and-running. The bill also includes provisions to modernize the nation's 911 call centers to integrate with the new first responder network. These provisions were included as part of H.R. 3630, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act, which was signed into law with Sen. McCaskill's support in February 2012.

**Improved Food Safety While Protecting Small Farmers.** In 2010, Senator McCaskill worked to provide important new protections for consumers. The Food Safety Modernization Act, signed into law with Senator McCaskill's support, takes commonsense steps to improve the safety of our food supply. The legislation authorizes the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to issue mandatory recalls in the event that businesses do not voluntarily recall harmful foods. The legislation will also subject imported foods to increased scrutiny. Under the new law, the FDA will be able to require certification for high-risk foods, and deny entry to foods that lack certification or are from a foreign facility that has refused U.S. inspectors. Recognizing that what's appropriate for large companies may not be appropriate for small, local producers, Senator McCaskill supported an important amendment to the legislation to ensure that small family farms and products sold through farmers' markets, bake sales and road side stands were exempt from new rules.