

Homeland Security: Securing Our Communities, Securing Our Future

New Jersey's 13th district is home to, what is considered by the Department of Homeland Security, the most dangerous 2-mile stretch of road in the country. With one of the largest ports in the country - Port Newark/Elizabeth, chemical plants, the Newark Airport, and critical transportation infrastructure, including Goethals Bridge, Outerbridge Crossing, and Bayonne Bridge - I have been working with my colleagues in Congress to ensure the safety of my district and the greater New York/New Jersey area.

In 2004, the bipartisan 9/11 Commission submitted their report and recommendations to Congress that would help secure our nation from future terrorist attacks. Finally, in January 2007, Congress acted by passing H.R. 1, which implemented many of the recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission. One of the most important recommendations changed the distribution of homeland security funding for high risk states and regions, which directly impacts our district. I believe the risk we live with everyday warrants more federal funding in order to help ensure the safety and security of everyone in our community.

In early 2008, I invited the Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, Bennie Thompson (D-MS), to visit the 13th district as a way to better understand the security issues we face in our community. Chairman Thompson understands that the port and transportation infrastructure located within our district are absolutely critical to our national security. During my time in Congress, I have been a strong advocate of adequate funding for our ports, chemical security plants, and other significant infrastructure. I will continue to work for increased funding for port security, including 100 percent shipping container screening, to ensure their safety before they make their way onto our nation's roads and rail lines. By maintaining the safety of these critical areas we are helping to keep our communities safe, ensuring our lines of transport for passengers and goods, and protecting our economy.