

1/9/2007 - Congressman Albio Sires Votes to Keep New Jersey Safe From Terrorism

The House of Representatives passes the bill that implements the unfulfilled recommendations

For Immediate Release

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(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Albio Sires voted today in support of H.R. 1 which implements the unfulfilled recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, and puts America on the road to safety. (En Espanol)

"Two of the most dangerous miles in the nation are located in the 13th District of New Jersey, and the bill passed today reassures our residents that we are taking vital steps to keep them safe from terror attacks," said Congressman Albio Sires. "There is no doubt that our district is one of the most vulnerable, and it is imperative that we have the appropriate funds to protect and defend ourselves from terrorism."

The bill includes important provisions that will improve our security such as :

-Increasing the share of state homeland security grants provided on the basis of risk

- A stand-alone grant program that will provide first responders with equipment which allows them to communicate with one another during an emergency;

- Strengthening of aviation security by phasing in a requirement of 100% screening of the cargo on passenger aircraft, and

- Accelerating the installation of explosive detection systems for checked baggage and improving the explosive detection systems at passenger checkpoints in our nation's airports.

This bill also phases in, over then next five years, a requirement that 100% of the containers leaving the largest ports overseas will be screened. Our district is home to Port Elizabeth, the largest container seaport on the East Coast and the destination for many of these containers. Containers in international ports will be scanned for radiation and density prior to being loaded onto ships bound for the United States.

The 9/11 Commission bill also includes provisions to better prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and provides for the establishment of a Middle East Foundation. The foundation would help to counter extremism abroad by promoting economic opportunities, education reform, human rights and democratic processes in Middle East nations.

"We must do what it takes to ensure that terrorism doesn't once again reach our soil. New Jersey's terror threat requires

greater efforts to keep our residents safe. I am confident we are on the road to restoring peace of mind to our community and to the individuals who live closest to potential danger," said Congressman Sires.