

7/27/2007 - Sires Votes To Enact 9/11 Commission Recommendations

The Senate overwhelmingly adopts report; bill goes directly to the President's desk

For Immediate Release

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(Washington, D.C.) - Today, Congressman Albio Sires reiterated his commitment to protecting America from terrorism. The conference report on H.R. 1, Implementing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, will finally allow vital security measures to be put in place so that our country's protection becomes standard practice.

"Almost six years have passed since the terrorist attack on 9/11, and we have had these recommendations for two and a half years. It's about time we start securing our ports and mass transit, two areas in our district perceived to be vulnerable. We need to do everything we can to be prepared, and hopefully begin to restore the sense of security our country once had," said Congressman Sires.

In July 2004, the bipartisan 9/11 Commission submitted its recommendations, only to have most of them blocked by the GOP-led Congress. The conference report to H.R. 1 is sound, comprehensive legislation that will begin to implement procedures that will strengthen our national security.

H.R. 1 highlights port, aviation, rail and mass transit security, as well as communications among first responders and risk based funding. For the 13th district, it includes important provisions such as:

- Providing a greater percentage of Homeland Security grant funding to be risk-based, which will benefit high risk states like New Jersey.

- Requiring 100% of the containers bound for the U.S. to be scanned

- Requiring the screening of 100% of the cargo on passenger aircraft, including \$250 million annually for checkpoint screening and \$450 million annually for baggage screening

- Authorizing rail and mass transit security grants

- Ensuring communications among first responders

"This has been one of the highest priorities in my district. I am pleased with the end result the conference report put forth and urge the President to quickly sign it into law," said Congressman Sires.

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