

NEWS ALERT



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Homeland Security Committee

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson

“The FY 2010 Budget for Departmental Management and Operations at DHS”

June 4, 2009 (Washington) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the Management, Investigations, and Oversight Subcommittee hearing entitled “The FY 2010 Budget for Departmental Management and Operations at DHS”:

“This hearing is the first in a series of hearings that each Subcommittee will conduct, in an effort to further explore how the President’s proposed requests will be used to further the Department’s mission.

As I stated during the Full Committee Budget Hearing with Secretary Napolitano, the President submitted a very comprehensive budget that answers a lot of the questions we’ve had about where the Department wants to go.

In particular, the budget includes a number of critical programmatic changes that I support and would like to highlight.

The transfer of the Office of Intergovernmental Programs to the Office of the Secretary makes sense and will surely enhance DHS’ ability to coordinate with State, local and tribal governments.

I also support the requested increase for the Office of Procurement. The acquisition workforce must be expanded in order to meet the Department’s needs. In previous years, over 40% of DHS’ budget went out the door to contractors to perform a host of functions, including policymaking. This over-reliance on contractors has undermined DHS’ ability to execute its missions and the hiring of new acquisition professionals should help stem that tide.

Furthermore, I fully expect, the Human Capital Office to use its allocation to increase diversity among the Department’s workforce so that it will be more reflective of the public it serves.

In these tough economic times, I am committed to working to help secure a budget for the Department that keeps on our commitment to fiscal responsibility while strengthening the security of our Nation.

#

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact Dena Graziano or Adam Comis at (202) 225-9978

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security

H2-176, Ford House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

Phone: (202) 226-2616 | Fax: (202) 226-4499

<http://homeland.house.gov>