

Dear Mr. President

In just a few short weeks you will solemnly swear to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. These words carry great weight in the times that we live in.

Today, you will assume the presidency of a nation that is far different than when your predecessor assumed this office. Our country faces profound security challenges. Two fronts on the global war on terror, Iraq and Afghanistan, continue to bleed America of its warfighters and its military resources. Autocratic states empowered by petrodollars are on the rise in Asia and Latin America, and one of these regimes, Iran, is projected by Israeli Military Intelligence to be a year away from developing nuclear weapons. Transnational terror networks continue to destabilize large parts of Asia, and actively plan attacks against American and European targets.

In April 2001 homeland security was simply a phrase, today, Homeland Security is much more than an agency, but a way of life for hundreds of thousands of dedicated Americans who have pledged to protect our homeland.

In the pages that follow political leaders, government officials and senior corporate executives involved in all areas of homeland defense and national security share their opinions and advice on priorities that they think should be addressed in their respective sectors during the transition and into your administration.

No list of opinions or challenges could be comprehensive,

but overlaid upon all of them is our current economic crisis. No one is yet sure how the current financial situation will impact their budgets in coming months, although everyone agrees that homeland defense, border security, and the war on terror must remain top priorities. Nevertheless, hard decisions must be made on funding priorities. Local authorities, whose duties have recently expanded to include counter-terror and mass casualty preparedness, will undoubtedly be pressed. We earnestly hope that the implementation of long-sought national security goals will not be forestalled.

In this time of high anxiety we may find perspective in the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt's First Inaugural Address of 1933: "Compared with the perils which our forefathers conquered because they believed and were not afraid, we have still much to be thankful for." Mr. President, at your inauguration you will recite the Oath of Office that will tie you forever to the American people. With prudent and vigorous leadership, guided by the memory of history, we are confident you may lead us beyond our present condition to the restored state of confidence and success that is natural to the American spirit. Liberty and its defenders shall always prevail over the forces of ignorance and fanaticism.

Words alone will not carry us through the next four years. You will be judged by the actions of your administration and the results you achieve. We stand ready to aid you in this goal.

Faithfully submitted to you.

The Homeland Security Community

Our leadership interviewees were:

Capitol Hill:

Senator Joe Biden - (D - DE)
Congressman Jim Longevin (D - RI)
Cong. Henry Cuellar (D - TX)
Cong Dave Riechert (R - WA)
Cong Peter King (R - NY)

Infrastructure Representatives:

DHS FEMA
National Guard
FCC
Customs & Border Protection
Immigration & Customs Enforcement
Port of Houston
Atlanta Airport
Illinois Dept of Public Health

New York Metro Transit Authority
American Association of Railroads
Transportation Security Administration
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
State of West Virginia - Division of
Homeland Security
Chicago Fusion Center
City of Houston
Chief of Police - Miami, Florida
Chief of Police - Port St. Lucie, Florida
Northrop Grumman
Lockheed Martin
Migration Policy Institute
Verizon Business
Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems
Sagem Morpho Inc.