

Business Meeting Statement
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
Chairman Joe Lieberman
April 13, 2011

Good morning and thank you all for being here. Today our Committee will consider the nominations of Rafael Borrás as Under Secretary for Management at the Department of Homeland Security and eight bills. I appreciate that my colleagues have arranged their schedules to be here this morning, so let's get right to work.

The first item on the agenda is the nomination of Rafael Borrás to be DHS Under Secretary for Management. Mr. Borrás has 27 years of management experience in the public and private sector and has served as Under Secretary for a year, under a recess appointment.

In that time, Mr. Borrás has helped to strengthen the Department's acquisition processes and has reviewed the Department's workforce needs and use of contractors. He has helped identify \$800 million in savings within DHS' various components and has been addressing problems that put the Department on the Government Accountability Office's list of programs at risk of failure due to mismanagement.

He has proven himself to be a dedicated and highly capable leader in an incredibly challenging position, and I hope my colleagues will join me to approve his nomination.

Next on the agenda is S. 679, the bipartisan Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011, introduced by Senators Schumer and Alexander, and co-sponsored by Senator Collins and myself. The bill would eliminate Senate confirmation for 210 presidential appointments and set in motion a process to streamline and consolidate the many forms nominees are required to fill out. This is an important effort to improve government efficiency, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

We will also consider S. 772, the SECURE Facilities Act of 2011, which Senator Collins and I have introduced to reform the Federal Protective Service (FPS) so it can fulfill its mission to protect the people who work and visit 9,000 federal buildings around the country. The FPS has been exposed as a dysfunctional agency with embarrassing financial and management problems that need immediate attention.

Our bill would provide FPS with the resources it needs to maintain proper security, improve the training of its 15,000 contract guards, and put the agency on track to address the threat of explosives.

With that, we will proceed. Senator Collins, would you like to make any remarks?