



United States Senate
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Chairman Joseph I. Lieberman, ID-Conn.

Markup Opening Statement
Chairman Joe Lieberman
October 19, 2011

AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

Good morning to everyone. We have eight pieces of legislation, four nominations, and five postal naming bills to markup, so let's get underway.

Half of the bills before us today reflect this Committee's enduring emphasis on trying to make government work better for those who are governed by it.

Among the legislation we will consider are bills to strengthen whistleblower protections for federal employees, to perfect legislation to eliminate improper federal payments, to ensure that the Government Accountability Office has access to the information it needs to perform its work, and to encourage national and homeland security employees to rotate to other agencies in order to increase the government's coordination and integration across these areas.

I'm proud to be associated with each one of these bills. And I would like to speak at greater length on the last one I mentioned, which is S. 1268, the Interagency Personnel Rotation Act of 2011.

The Interagency Personnel Rotation Act would promote the rotation of certain homeland and national security employees to other agencies within that broad subject area. This will advance the important work of breaking down government stovepipes and eliminating communications roadblocks.

The national security and homeland security challenges our nation faces in the 21st Century are far more complex than those of the last century. Threats such as terrorism, nuclear and biological weapons proliferation, insurgencies, failed states, and organized crime know no borders and are beyond the capability of any single agency of our government.

We need to work harder to integrate all instruments of national power – including military, diplomatic, intelligence, law enforcement, foreign aid, homeland security, and public health – to counter these threats.

And that's what this bill will do, by promoting greater understanding among the professionals who dedicate their careers to our security. I appreciate your support for this measure.

Senator Collins?