United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 4, 2007

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 205283

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

We are writing to inquire about the status of the Department of Homeland Security's National Strategy for Bombing Prevention. As you recall, the joint explanatory statement of managers accompanying the fiscal year (FY) 2007 Homeland Security appropriations conference report (Report 109-699) required, "*the Secretary to develop a national strategy for bombing prevention, including a review of existing federal, state, and local efforts in this effort. The strategy shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriation no later than January 23, 2007.*" Specifically, we would like to know the following:

- What is the reason for the seven month delay of the strategy;
- What are the major findings of your work to date;
- What is your plan of action and milestones to implement the strategy;
- How does your proposed FY 2008 and future budget proposals directly support the strategy; and
- How does this strategy relate to the recently released Homeland Security Presidential Directive - 19?

As you know, the use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Iraq and Afghanistan continues to be the deadliest means of attack against our military. Moreover, several recent events including the June 2007 attempted "Vehicle Borne" IED attacks in London and the recent arrest of four individuals conspiring to attack JFK airport by detonating the airport's major jet-fuel supply tanks and pipeline, clearly indicate that terrorists have a growing interest in using IEDs to attack targets in the United States. The necessity to implement a clear and effective national strategy is imperative to both meet our troops' security needs overseas and prevent-this threat from migrating to our homeland.

We look forward to your prompt response to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senator

ROBERT C. BYRD
United States Senator