

## January 10, 2007 Murtha Votes to Implement 9/11 Commission's Recommendations

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### Murtha VOTES TO IMPLEMENT 9/11 COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Washington D.C. - U.S. Rep. John Murtha voted to make our nation safer by implementing the unfulfilled recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission on improving homeland security, preventing terrorists from acquiring WMD, and developing strategies for preventing the spread of terrorism.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1 this afternoon by a vote of 299 to 128.

"I was pleased to preside over the passage of this important bill on the House Floor," said Murtha.

"It's been over five years since the tragic events of 9/11 and almost three years since the 9/11 Commission issued its report with recommendations for improving our nation's security," Murtha pointed out. "This action is long overdue and I'm pleased we are finally moving forward toward better securing America's borders and protecting our country. This bill also goes beyond the Commission's recommendations by requiring, within five years, 100% scanning of U.S.-bound shipping containers, furthering the protection of our vulnerable ports."

The bill includes a number of steps to substantially improve homeland security, including:

- Creating a stand-alone grant program to provide first responders with the type of equipment that allows them to communicate with one another during emergencies;
- Phasing in a requirement of 100% inspection of the cargo carried on passenger aircraft over the next three years (most of this cargo is still not inspected);
- Quickly accelerating the installation of explosive detection systems for checked baggage at the nation's airports;
- Improving explosive detection systems at passenger checkpoints at the nation's airports.

The bill also includes provisions to better prevent terrorists from acquiring WMD, such as:

- Strengthening the Cooperative Threat Reduction ("Nunn-Lugar") program that focuses on securing loose nuclear materials in the former Soviet Union;

- Providing increased tools for the Proliferation Security Initiative, through which the U.S. and participating countries interdict WMD; and
- Establishing a U.S. Coordinator for the Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism at the White House, who would serve as a presidential advisor on proliferation issues.

Finally, the bill also includes provisions to reduce the appeal of extremism, including:

- \* Providing for the establishment of a Middle East Foundation, to promote economic opportunities, education reform, human rights and democratic processes in the countries of the Middle East; and
- \* Promoting quality educational opportunities for youth in Arab and other predominantly Muslim countries, including expanding U.S. scholarship and exchange programs.