



October 18, 2004

**HARMAN RELEASES LETTER TO PRESIDENT ON
INTELLIGENCE REFORM BILL CONFERENCE
-- Calls it a Test of His Presidential Leadership --**

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, Congresswoman Jane Harman (D-CA), Ranking Member on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, sent the following letter to the President:

Dear Mr. President:

I am returning to Washington, DC tomorrow to serve as a conferee on the intelligence reform bill, and I will stay as long as necessary to get the job done. But make no mistake, this effort will not succeed unless you engage personally and visibly, and clarify your position regarding the House and Senate versions of intelligence reform legislation.

Your administration says it wants a strong bill, but its actions in support of meaningful legislation will speak much louder than its words. The quality of the conference report will be the measure of your ability to stand strong against more partisan forces. This is about our nation's security, not scoring points in a political season.

Unlike the House-passed bill, which is laden with extraneous provisions designed to divide the conference, the Senate's bill reflects genuine bipartisanship and a more faithful implementation of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations.

Three-quarters of the conferees agree on the intelligence portion of the bill, and it is time for the House leadership to stop pointing fingers and blaming the Senate for a lack of progress. Such cynical behavior has no place in this debate. I urge you to make plain to all concerned that intelligence reform is above politics and not a partisan hot potato to toss around as Election Day nears.

Sincerely,

Jane Harman

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