



December 17, 2004

HARMAN CELEBRATES THE SIGNING OF HISTORIC INTELLIGENCE REFORM PACKAGE

WASHINGTON DC- Today, Congresswoman Jane Harman (D-CA), Ranking Democrat on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, released the following statement in response to the signing of the intelligence bill:

"Today, history is made. The legislation signed by President Bush will sweep away a 1947 business model and create a unified Commander for our entire intelligence community. Bringing together 15 agencies under one command structure will reduce the chance that critical clues about the terrorists will fall through the cracks, as they did on 9/11.

"This long-overdue reform gives the brave men and women of our intelligence community important new tools to discover and disrupt the plans of our enemies.

"It creates a strong Director of National Intelligence and National Counter Terrorism Center while implementing tough new border security and law enforcement provisions. It creates a trusted Information Sharing environment to allow intelligence agencies to share information about terrorist targets. It also creates a new Privacy and Civil Liberties Board to ensure that counter terrorism policies do not erode our Constitutional rights.

"I was honored to be one of the "Big 4" negotiators and to work with extraordinarily talented and dedicated partners, including Senators Susan Collins and Joe Lieberman and Congressman Pete Hoekstra.

"Nothing we did would have succeeded without the 9/11 families, who were the moral force beneath our wings, and the unanimous bipartisan Report of the 9/11 Commission.

"Legislation alone won't make us safer. We also need effective leadership. The President should pick a strong manager who will speak truth to power. I pledge to work closely with the new DNI to help make our country safer."

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