



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**HPSCI CHAIRMAN GOSS AND RANKING DEMOCRAT HARMAN
WELCOME “THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT” AND ITS
CONSTRUCTIVE REVIEW OF CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT**

(WASHINGTON, DC)—Chairman Porter J. Goss (R-FL) and Ranking Member Jane Harman (D-CA) of the US House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) welcome the 9/11 Commission’s constructive comments on the importance of congressional oversight in helping to keep our government’s counterterrorism capabilities healthy, flexible, agile, and well resourced. Likewise, HPSCI Chairman Goss and Ranking Member Harman appreciate the 9/11 Commission’s hard work, dedication, bipartisan effort, and its critical review of the ability of Congress to participate in the development of counterterrorism policies and the need to consider new ways of doing its oversight work.

The Executive Summary of *The 9/11 Commission Report* states: “Congress took too little action to adjust itself or to restructure the executive branch to address the emerging terrorist threat. Congressional oversight for intelligence – and counterterrorism – is dysfunctional.”

Goss and Harman said, “Undoubtedly, we can improve the way we do our work, and Congress might better organize to conduct comprehensive oversight. We will, of course, carefully consider the Commission’s recommendations for strengthening our ability to do oversight.”

Goss and Harman noted that when it comes to oversight of our legally mandated *National Foreign Intelligence Program*, the United States Congress must serve as a model for other nations. Goss said, “The world’s leaders regularly beat a path to our door to find out how we do it. From established long-time allies like the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada, to emerging democracies from the old Soviet Bloc, the Middle East, Gulf States, and elsewhere, we have a steady stream of visitors and inquiries on how we do our oversight business.” Harman added, “This makes it all the more important that we get it right.” Goss and Harman agreed, “We are not immune from criticism and are open to suggestions for improvement.” Goss said, “We may not be perfect, but we are the best of what is available.”

Goss said, “What changed on 9/11/01 was the audience,” which he has said repeatedly since that terrible day. Harman agreed. Goss and Harman together said, “The 9/11 Commission understands this and properly calls for the American audience to become engaged in making improvements.”

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