

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 472

Commending the employees of the Department of Homeland Security, their partners at all levels of government, and the millions of law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical services personnel, emergency managers, and other emergency response providers nationwide for their dedicated service in protecting the people of the United States and the Nation from acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other large-scale emergencies.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2008

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. SUNUNU) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Commending the employees of the Department of Homeland Security, their partners at all levels of government, and the millions of law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical services personnel, emergency managers, and other emergency response providers nationwide for their dedicated service in protecting the people of the United States and the Nation from acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other large-scale emergencies.

Whereas it has been almost 7 years since the horrific terrorist attacks against the United States and its people on September 11, 2001;

Whereas al-Qaeda and affiliated or inspired terrorist groups remain committed to plotting attacks against the United States, its interests, and its foreign allies, as evidenced by recent terrorist attacks in Great Britain, Algeria, and Pakistan, and disrupted plots in Germany, Denmark, Canada, and the United States;

Whereas the Nation remains vulnerable to catastrophic natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, which devastated the Gulf Coast in August 2005;

Whereas the President has declared more than 400 major disasters and emergencies under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act since 2000, in response to a host of natural disasters, including tornadoes, floods, winter storms, and wildfires that have overwhelmed the capabilities of State and local governments;

Whereas acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other large-scale emergencies can exact a tragic human toll, resulting in significant numbers of casualties and disrupting hundreds of thousands of lives, causing serious damage to the Nation's critical infrastructure, and inflicting billions of dollars of costs on both the public and private sectors;

Whereas in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, and the continuing risk to the Nation from a full range of potential catastrophic incidents, Congress established the Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003, bringing together 22 disparate Federal entities, enhancing their capabilities with major new divisions emphasizing information analysis, infrastructure protection, and science and technology, and focusing its more than 200,000 employees on the critical mission of defending

the Nation against acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other large-scale emergencies;

Whereas since its creation, the employees of the Department of Homeland Security have endeavored to carry out this mission with commendable dedication, working with other Federal departments and agencies and partners at all levels of government to help secure the Nation's borders, airports, sea and inland ports, critical infrastructure, and people against acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other large-scale emergencies;

Whereas the Nation's firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical services personnel, and other emergency response providers selflessly and repeatedly risk their lives to fulfill their mission to help prevent, protect against, prepare for, and respond to acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other large-scale emergencies;

Whereas State, local, territorial, and tribal government officials, the private sector, and ordinary individuals across the country have been working in cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security and other Federal departments and agencies to enhance the Nation's ability to prevent, protect against, prepare for, and respond to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other large-scale emergencies; and

Whereas the people of the United States can assist in promoting the Nation's overall preparedness by remaining vigilant, reporting suspicious activity to proper authorities, and preparing themselves and their families for all emergencies, regardless of their cause: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of
2 the establishment of the Department of Homeland
3 Security, commends the public servants of the De-
4 partment for their outstanding contributions to the
5 Nation's security and safety;

6 (2) salutes the dedication of State, local, terri-
7 torial, and tribal government officials, the private
8 sector, and individuals across the country for their
9 efforts to enhance the Nation's ability to prevent,
10 protect against, prepare for, and respond to acts of
11 terrorism, natural disasters, and other large-scale
12 emergencies;

13 (3) expresses the Nation's appreciation for the
14 sacrifices and commitment of law enforcement, fire
15 service, and emergency medical services personnel,
16 emergency managers, and other emergency response
17 providers in preventing, protecting against, pre-
18 paring for, and responding to acts of terrorism, nat-
19 ural disasters, and other large-scale emergencies;

20 (4) urges the Federal Government, States, local
21 governments, Indian tribes, schools, nonprofit orga-
22 nizations, businesses, other entities, and the people
23 of the United States to take steps that promote indi-
24 vidual and community preparedness for any emer-
25 gency, regardless of its cause; and

1 (5) encourages continued efforts by every indi-
2 vidual in the United States to enhance the ability of
3 the Nation to address the full range of potential cat-
4 astrophic incidents at all levels of government.

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