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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

February 21, 2007

Dr. Brian Dodd, President
Health Physics Society
10313 Cogswell Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89134-5209

Dear Dr. Dodd:

On Tuesday, March 13th, 2007, the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia will hold a hearing entitled, *A Review of U.S. International Efforts to Secure Radiological Materials*. The hearing will begin at 2:30 p.m. in Room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The purpose of the hearing is intended to review the federal government's efforts to secure radioactive sources in other countries. We invite you or your designee to testify at this hearing.

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, U.S. and international experts raised concerns that unsecured radiological sources were vulnerable to theft and that, in the wrong hands, could be used to create a radiological dispersion device (RDD), or a "dirty bomb". Sealed radiological sources are commonly used worldwide in industrial, agricultural and medical applications and are generally not strongly secured. In fact, many of these sources have, in the past, gone missing and turned up in the hands of those not authorized to have them. Such occurrences, called "orphan source" incidents, often resulted in serious injury of possessors of those sources, who were often unaware of the dangers of them. Protections in place before September 11, 2001, focused on inadvertent access to radiological sources. Since then, protections have focused on theft and the potential for malicious use of them.

In response to the danger posed by RDDs the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), working closely with the U.S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, began efforts to help other countries track, license and secure those sources deemed to be the most dangerous if used in an RDD. In a recent report drafted at Senator Akaka's request, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reviewed DOE's International Radiological Threat Reduction Program efforts to help other countries, including Russia, Indonesia, Iraq and Mexico. GAO found that DOE had made limited progress securing many of the most dangerous sources located in waste storage facilities in Russia, had not yet developed a long-term plan to ensure that security upgrades will be adequately sustained once installed, and that it often fails to cooperate with the NRC and State Department in its efforts.

This hearing will review DOE and NRC efforts to secure radiological materials through the IAEA and other multilateral organizations. Given the size of the task, both DOE and NRC have come to rely on the IAEA to help implement the radiological source security program. We ask that your testimony discuss your work related to improving the security of radioactive sources and, in particular, your previous work in this regard at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and currently as President of the Health Physics Society (HPS) in improving radiation safety in other countries.

Committee rules require that 50 copies of your prepared statement be submitted 48 hours in advance of the hearing. Accordingly, we would ask that copies of your written statement be delivered to Ms. Emily Marthaler, Chief Clerk, 442 Hart Senate Office Building, no later than 2:30 p.m. on March 11, 2007. In addition, we ask that you submit your statement via email to Emily_Marthaler@hsgac.senate.gov. While your complete written testimony will be included as part of the hearing record, the Subcommittee requests that all oral testimony be limited to five minutes.

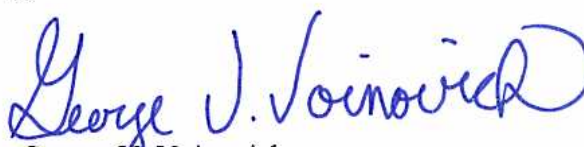
Should you have any questions regarding the hearing, please have a member of your staff contact Ms. Jodi Lieberman on the staff of Senator Akaka at (202) 224-4551, or Ms. Tara Baird on the staff of Senator Voinovich at (202) 224-3682.

Thank you very much. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Daniel K. Akaka
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight of Government
Management, the Federal Workforce
and the District of Columbia



George V. Voinovich
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight of Government
Management, the Federal Workforce,
and the District of Columbia