

RANKING MEMBER RON BARBER OPENING STATEMENT

Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency

Hearing on: *“Stakeholder Perspectives on Priorities for the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review”*

Friday, June 20, 2014

The purpose of the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, or QHSR, is to conduct a comprehensive assessment that outlines the long-term risks, strategy, and priorities for homeland security across the nation.

Unfortunately, the Department did not release the QHSR until yesterday; despite the statutory mandate that it be delivered no later than December 31, 2013. While I am disappointed it was released late, I am pleased to see that the report includes very specific strategic priorities for the department for the next four years.

It is now incumbent upon the Department, in coordination with its Federal, State and local partners and other stakeholders, to carry out these strategies in an effort to keep our country secure. For the QHSR to be a truly effective guide, one that ensures all Department components are working toward the same goals, it is critical that the strategies the Department has put on paper in the QHSR actually become programs, policies, and budget requirements.

Although required by law to be included, missing from the QHSR is an assessment of the organizational alignment of the Department with the national homeland security strategy, including the Department’s organizational structure, management systems, budget and accounting systems, human resources systems, procurement systems, and physical and technical infrastructure.

These missing elements make it difficult to determine whether the Department has the required capabilities to achieve the goals established in the QHSR and its ability to link its policies to planning, budget, and execution.

The Chairman and I recently co-sponsored H.R. 4228, the DHS Acquisition Accountability and Efficiency Act, which passed the House earlier this month. This bipartisan bill will bring transparency, accountability, and consistency to the Department’s acquisitions process. The effective and efficient acquisition of technology, goods and services will be vital in the Department’s ability to implement the strategic approaches defined in the QHSR.

As Ranking Member of the Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee, I look forward to monitoring the Department’s implementation of the strategic priorities laid out in the QHSR to ultimately determine its worth.

While the Department is not here today to address our specific questions, I do appreciate the willingness of these very important stakeholders and former Department employees to testify today.

Their insight into the QHSR and the Department’s plan forward should serve as a valuable contribution to our oversight. I look forward to hearing from each of you.