



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, October 13, 2006

Media Contact: Press Office
(202) 226-9600

SAFE Port Act Signed into Law

Washington, D.C. (Friday, October 13, 2006)—Today, U.S. Rep. Peter T. King (R-NY), Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, praised The President’s signing of the Security and Accountability For Every (SAFE) Port Act. The bill was originally adopted by the Committee on Homeland Security, approved by the Senate, and now has been signed into law.

“For several months, the Committee worked tirelessly to achieve a comprehensive port security bill that we could send to the President for approval—and that is exactly what we accomplished,” King said. “With the President’s signature on this legislation, the security of one of our biggest domestic vulnerabilities—our seaports—will be greatly enhanced and anti-terror measures will be put into place. This is an incredible accomplishment for this Committee and the security of our nation.”

“To prevail in the Global War on Terror, I believe that an important component of our overall strategy is the strengthening of port security,” Rep. Dan Lungren (R-CA) said, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection and Cybersecurity. “The SAFE Port Act provides the resources and intelligence necessary to adapt to new threats as well as a homeland security strategy based on rational risk assessment. I am particularly pleased that this legislation was crafted in an overwhelmingly bi-partisan fashion. America’s national defense is the number one responsibility and priority of the federal government.”

This legislation, which originally passed the House by a vote of 421-2 in May, was introduced by Rep. Dan Lungren (R-CA). The bill takes significant steps to enhance port security, authorizing \$400 million per year for port security grants nationwide, fully authorizing and codifying the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), and requiring the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to deploy nuclear and radiological detection systems to cover 98% of all incoming cargo.

Furthermore, the legislation takes a global approach to shipping and cargo security by improving two important international screening programs: the Container Security Initiative (CSI) and the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) program. Finally,

the bill will help track and protect shipments en route to the U.S., through improvements to high-risk cargo targeting and tracking systems.

“Having this legislation become law is one of the most important things we’ll do this year to advance homeland security,” King said. “The SAFE Port Act takes the necessary steps to secure our ports, and the American people will be safer because of it.”

###