

Opening Statement of
Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX-18), as prepared
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection
Committee on Homeland Security

As you all know, this Subcommittee has jurisdiction over TSA and many elements of NPPD. With respect to TSA, we have already done a great deal this year, and the TSA Authorization bill was passed out of the House in an overwhelmingly bipartisan manner just last week.

When it comes to Infrastructure Protection and the other elements of NPPD, the Committee is moving quickly to extend and comprehensively modify the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards. In addition, the Subcommittee will be working on an authorization package for NPPD later this year.

With respect to TSA, the Subcommittee is generally pleased with the budget request of almost \$7.8 billion. For FY2010, TSA has requested additional budget authority for adding Bomb Appraisal Officers, Travel Document Checkers, and Behavioral Detection Officers to enhance aviation security. In addition to the standard checkpoint and baggage screening operations, TSOs will continue to support security initiatives such as Screening of Passengers by Observation Techniques, Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response teams, and the Aviation Direct Access Screening Program. TSA has also made heightened investments in technology—precisely what we need to keep the traveling public safe.

I am concerned about TSA's FY2010 budget request of \$108 million for cargo security operations. This figure does not support an increase in FTEs for air cargo and reflects a 12% decrease from the FY2009 enacted amount, even as TSA faces significant challenges with respect to air cargo security. It is imperative that TSA have sufficient resources to face these challenges.

The President's FY2010 budget request for surface transportation security at TSA totals roughly \$128 million, which is more than double the FY2009 enacted appropriation. Although I have concerns about how these new resources are allocated, this request reflects a real investment in securing non-aviation modes of transportation and is consistent with the broader priorities of our authorization bill.

Turning to NPPD, there is much to applaud in this budget proposal. This directorate has a troubled history and this budget attempts to unify an entity that contains several disparate components.

The Committee welcomes the \$87 million increase over the FY2009 appropriation for the National Cyber Security Division. This addresses an important function, and we are pleased that the Deputy Under Secretary, who has a career of success in the cyber environment, is willing to serve in order to help protect this Nation. We still need to better understand how the Department's efforts will interface with the rest of the Federal government, especially with the creation of a new "cyber coordinator" in the White House. Because this Subcommittee works a great deal with the 18 critical infrastructure sectors, we must ensure that the Department's cyber efforts are efficiently leveraging these important relationships.

I applaud the Deputy Under Secretary for his testimony that "[f]illing vacant Federal positions and right sizing the Federal and contractor staff ratio across NPPD" is his "utmost priority." This Subcommittee fully supports this effort, but I am concerned about "suitability" protocols at NPPD. This Subcommittee stands ready to assist you in your efforts to expedite the security clearance process for prospective employees.

The Subcommittee is pleased with NPPD's request for \$333 million for Infrastructure Protection. As you well know, we have done a lot of work in this important area, and the response to the Mumbai attacks shows that we

have a long way to go. The increases for chemical site security and the ammonium nitrate regulations are also important steps.

However, the Subcommittee is concerned about the cuts to partnerships related to the National Infrastructure Protection Plan. In this economic climate, it seems that we should be bolstering these efforts, as the private sector—an important security partner—will have fewer resources.

I remain very concerned with the Office of Risk Management and Analysis. Staff has quarterly briefings with RMA and it seems both underfunded and headed in too many directions. As I said last spring, we need a strategic plan from RMA that puts it on a path to success. I look forward to introducing legislation that will clarify the roles and responsibilities of RMA.

Finally, the President's FY2010 budget request proposes to move FPS out of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and into NPPD. The Committee agrees that ICE was not the proper entity to house FPS, but questions whether moving it to NPPD will address the problems encountered under ICE, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts about the proposed move today.