United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 2, 2010

Senator Joseph Lieberman, Chairman
Senator Susan Collins, Ranking Member
Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20528

Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins:

We write today to request the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hold a full committee hearing to question officials from the Department of Homeland Security on the recently disclosed Department memo entitled, "Administrative Alternatives to Comprehensive Immigration Reform."

Since the release of the memo, many members of the Committee and the Senate have come forward with questions regarding the Administration's intentions on immigration enforcement. We believe that a public hearing with the ability for members to question the author and recipients of the memo, as well as other officials from the Department, would be appropriate.

We fully understand that the memo was a draft and not intended for public viewing; however it raises serious concerns about the Administration's ongoing attempts to bypass Congress and the legislative process in order to pursue its own political objectives. The memo specifically states that it is the Department's intention to enact "meaningful immigration reform absent legislative action."

The Department has responded to the memo's release by stating that "nobody should mistake deliberation and exchange of ideas for final decisions." We firmly believe that members of the Committee must be briefed on the Department's "deliberation and exchange of ideas" and any attempt to bypass Congress to put forward "meaningful immigration reform."

Sincerely,

John McCain

Scott P. Brown

Jim Risch

John Ensign

Mike Johanns

Michael B. Enzi John Barrasso

Mike Crapo Pat Roberts

Judd Gregg Saxby Chambliss