

Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



**Homeland
Security**

May 25, 2006

Judge William Webster
Acting Chairman, Homeland Security Advisory Council
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Judge Webster:

Thank you for the February 14, 2006, report of the Critical Infrastructure Task Force (CITF). The report meets my March 2005 charge to you and the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) to provide recommendations for advancing the discussion on national critical infrastructure policy.

The report's recommendations provide avenues for establishing objectively measurable preparedness standards that are community and region based and that support investments in business and government continuity. Given the fact that we live in an all-hazards environment it is important to continually improve the way we approach the challenges before us, and your work is an important step.

I have assigned Under Secretary for Preparedness George Foresman, Assistant Secretary for Policy Stewart Baker, and the HSAC staff the responsibility to review and implement the report's recommendations as appropriate. They will analyze the proposals and track the Department's efforts to implement the recommendations. The HSAC staff will provide you and other CITF members, regular updates on the Department's efforts.

I appreciate your leadership on the HSAC and ask you to thank the CITF members for their time and efforts. I hope that you and they remain engaged on this and other issues in the future. Together, we must meet the challenges that confront the Department in its efforts to manage risks at the regional and community level, and this report is a critical step in achieving this important goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Michael Chertoff", written over a horizontal line.

Michael Chertoff