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REPORT:

A. Border Related News Media

U. S. plans to preclear some cargo in Canada Buffalo News - May 18, 2011

In hopes of reducing congestion on the Peace and Lewiston-Queenston bridges, the U. S. government will start a pilot project later this year to preclear some trucks and cargo in Canada before they reach the border. Speaking at a House Judiciary subcommittee Tuesday, Alan Bersin, commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, said the project would be aimed at routine cargo that could be shipped safely into the U. S. without inspection at the border. The program is intended both to speed truck traffic at the bridges and to better focus resources to make the border more secure, Bersin said at the hearing, which dealt with security issues along the Northern Border. "The concept is that we could separate out trusted shippers and trusted shipment even in advance of them coming to the port of entry, and therefore permitting them to be released without having to go through the ordinary port of entry process," Bersin said. "That is a matter we are working on and we hope to present a pilot in the not too distant future." Bersin's announcement came as good news to Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N. Y., who chaired the hearing and pressed Bersin about congestion problems at the Buffalo-area international bridges. "This is essential to Western New York, which always centered its economy on the ability to quickly move and store goods," said Schumer, who termed the pilot project "terrific news" for the region. Bersin also said he hoped the pilot project could be expanded, pre-clearing a good deal of the routine truck cargo crossing the border. However, not all cargo will be screened in that way. "As far as practical, the notion of segmenting out trusted traffic is very critical to heightening the security profile" and allowing customs agents to focus on genuine threats, Bersin said. Still, much remains to be determined from the pilot project. A federal source with knowledge about the program said it would start later this year. Customs and Border Protection still has not determined where it will preclear U. S.- bound trucks in Canada, or how many can be cleared safely in that fashion. U. S. officials are continuing to work on those issues with their Canadian counterparts — who, so far at least, have not gone about trying to develop a similar program in the U. S. News of the preclearance experiment comes at a time when a plan to expand the Peace Bridge inspection plaza has found itself mired in controversy, due to neighborhood objections. But the preclearance plan stops well short of "shared border management," a long-discussed concept of clearing all U. S.-bound Canadian cargo in Canada, thereby eliminating the need for a Peace Bridge plaza

expansion. U. S. officials have cited security reasons as precluding such a broad-ranging plan. The current preclearance effort is only expected to affect a fraction of the U. S.-bound cargo. Discussion of the pilot program took up only a short segment of the hearing, which dealt more broadly on a recent Government Accountability Office report that only 32 miles of the 4,000-mile U. S.-Canadian border can be called “operationally secure.” To help correct that, the Department of Homeland Security later this year will begin using Canadian military radar with its U. S. counterpart to detect low-flying planes going from Canada to the U. S. with drugs, federal officials at the hearing said. The merged radar technology has already been used successfully along the Canadian border in Washington state, and Schumer and other senators had pressed for it to be expanded eastward.

U.S., Canada expected to coordinate radar to detect illegal aircraft on border
Rochester Democrat & Chronicle – May 17, 2011

The U.S. and Canada are expected to begin coordinating the use of radar to detect low-flying aircraft by November, a top U.S. customs official said Tuesday. Alan Bersin, commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, said 22 military radar facilities operated by Canada will be combined with the radar the U.S. military and the Federal Aviation Administration use to track low-flying aircraft crossing the border illegally. "We have a longstanding relationship," Bersin said at a Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing chaired by Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York. He noted that the U.S. and Canada have jointly operated the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) for decades. The Canadian information on low-flying aircraft will be received by Customs and Border Protection facility in Riverside, Calif. that monitors unauthorized aircraft crossing both the northern and southern borders. Bersin also said his agency is exploring the possibility of opening a pre-inspection facility in Montreal that would serve Amtrak passengers traveling to New York. Customs and Border Protection already inspects passengers in Vancouver, British Columbia, traveling by express train to Seattle. In other Canadian cities, they inspect passengers and luggage traveling by commercial aircraft to the U.S. However, Amtrak trains traveling from Montreal to New York make several stops before reaching the U.S. border. As a result, the trains stop at the border for up to two hours for customs inspections. Bersin said Amtrak express trains similar to those operating in the Pacific Northwest would make a pre-inspection system in Montreal "a more doable proposition." He told the Senate panel the U.S. and Canada are cooperating more often on a number of border issues, including the sharing of intelligence and data about cross-border criminal activity such as drug trafficking. The U.S.-Canada border is three times as long as the U.S.-Mexico border. Schumer and Democratic Sens. Patrick Leahy of Vermont and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota emphasized the need to maintain the flow of commerce and tourism while ensuring security. The United States also is working with Canada on developing a joint trusted-traveler program that will enable Canadians and U.S. citizens to quickly cross the border using secure identification cards.

U.S. to share Canada's radar
Watertown Daily Times – May 18, 2011

The United States and Canada will share radar along the border in an effort to combat smuggling, U.S. officials said Tuesday. That news came from the head of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Alan Bersin, who outlined some of his agency's priorities for the northern border at a Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing. Also at the hearing — chaired by Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y. — the director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement said an enhanced border enforcement team would be placed in Massena by the end of this year. Mr. Schumer's office later elaborated, saying the department had promised it by October, which is the beginning of the next fiscal year. The answers satisfied Mr. Schumer, who had called the hearing to

highlight several border issues he has been pressing in recent months. Although he said he understands changes cannot be made at the snap of a finger, Mr. Schumer has said the border remains short of the balance of tightened security and smooth commerce officials have been promising since 9-11. "At times, we've employed a backwards border strategy that lets drugs in but keeps business out," Mr. Schumer said. "It's absolutely critical that we reverse this trend and implement smart policies that will keep drugs out of our communities while encouraging new business and economic opportunities across the state." The news that the United States would tap into Canadian radar by November follows requests by Mr. Schumer and other lawmakers that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security deploy military-grade radar to detect low-flying aircraft used by drug smugglers. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano had said she would look into improved radar, but Tuesday's hearing was the first indication that the U.S. will rely on Canadian, not its own, military radar. In calling for enhanced radar, Mr. Schumer has cited government reports of increased drug interdictions along the northern border. The increased security at Massena comes through a Border Enforcement Security Task Force. The teams focus on interdictions and prosecutions to dismantle organized cross-border crime, Mr. Bersin told the panel. The Massena task force will be the fourth along the Canadian border, joining Blaine, Wash., Detroit and Buffalo. Mr. Bersin also noted in testimony that unmanned aircraft are in use in several locations along the border, including Northern New York adjacent to Lake Ontario and a portion of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Deployment of unmanned aircraft follows an expansion of Customs and Border Protection's airspace, in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration, Mr. Bersin said. While the focus is on enforcement, lawmakers continue to press on efficient operations at ports of entry that minimize delays for vehicles and goods. Mr. Schumer raised the point in reference to the Buffalo area, where delays remain a regular part of life at the busiest crossings. The United States and Canada continue to explore ways to pre-clear commercial traffic well before it reaches a border crossing, perhaps through a system geared toward "trusted shippers," Mr. Bersin said. But he would not commit to a specific system, saying only that the government will make such an effort "as far as practicable." The government can certainly start down the path of separating low- and high-risk traffic, Mr. Bersin said. Although Mr. Schumer sought to focus on the northern border, some senators remain focused on the U.S.-Mexico border, especially at a time when budgets are constrained. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, asked Mr. Bersin to compare figures for people detained at the southern border to those at the northern border. There were 6,000 detentions last year on the northern border, Mr. Bersin said, "a small, small fraction" of those at the Mexico border. On the other hand, he said, the threats are greater on the northern border because of the relative ease by which people can seek to enter Canada from foreign countries, then cross into the United States.

Upstate NY losing \$10M in US anti-terror money
Buffalo News - May 19, 2011

Upstate New York's metropolitan regions are set to lose a total of almost \$10 million in anti-terrorism funding because of federal budget cuts. The Department of Homeland Security notified 30 cities around the country they won't get Urban Areas Security Initiative money in this year's budget. That includes \$5.5 million that went last year to Buffalo, \$2.3 million for Rochester and about \$1 million each for Syracuse and Albany. The agency said Thursday the program took a \$170 million hit as Congress cut \$780 million from its budget for state and local preparedness grants and the priority became 31 high-threat urban areas, including New York City and Washington. While Mayor Michael Bloomberg and downstate lawmakers praised the agency for maintaining \$151.6 million allocated to the metro area, Sen. Chuck Schumer and others criticized the upstate cuts and said they would try to reverse them. "Did they forget we're a border community along Canada? Did they forget how many crossings we have and how much traffic goes across every day?" asked Erie County Emergency Services Commissioner Gregory

Skibitsky. "Did they forget about the 'Lackawanna Six' that occurred in our region?" he asked, referring to a group of young Yemeni-American residents convicted of providing material support to al-Qaida. "This is a glaring example of the real world impact on western New York of the extreme cuts the new House majority is focused on," said Rep. Brian Higgins. "The budget is a statement of our national priorities. Keeping our border safe, protecting a region with a history of terrorist cell activities should top the list. Yet, we have people protecting big oil at the expense of national security and that is costing this community and could cost this nation dearly." The Buffalo Democrat serves on the Border and Maritime Security and Counterterrorism and Intelligence subcommittees and voted against the cut. New York City has "seen both attacks and thwarted attacks so it's understandable that the city needs the dollars," said Fred Rion, associate emergency manager for Monroe County, which encompasses Rochester. "Other metropolitan areas were put on the list for a reason. It would be great if we would continue to get the money but since we're not, we're not going to sit here and complain. ... Our hope is that maybe they'll reevaluate again and we'll be put back on the list," Rion said. Schumer said "upstate cities strongly deserve UASI funding, and we very much regret these cuts. I am going to work hard to restore this funding." The grant program launched in 2003 initially sent money to New York City, Washington, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, San Francisco, and Houston. But since 2008, more than 60 cities have been awarded the risk-based grants. Also among the cities losing money are Providence, R.I., Baton Rouge and New Orleans, La., Tucson, Ariz., and Honolulu. "The highest risk cities in our country continue to face the most significant threats, and, consistent with recommendations from the 9/11 Commission, the FY 2011 homeland security grants focus the limited resources that were appropriated to mitigating and responding to these evolving threats," said Chris Ortman, a DHS spokesman. "Jurisdictions that are no longer on the UASI list will continue to receive homeland security grant funding through the State Homeland Security grant and other grants for which they may be eligible." Rep. Louise Slaughter, another western New York Democrat, said she understands the national challenge, "but when Buffalo and Rochester, two cities along our northern border are denied funding when smaller municipalities in America's interior receive funding, I have to question our security priorities." Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand criticized House Republicans, who she said "are tying our hands when it comes to our ability to provide upstate cities with resources to guard against terrorist attacks." Rep. Peter King, the Long Island Republican and chair of the Homeland Security Committee, said in a statement that the allocations "in this difficult fiscal climate" reflect his and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano's "recognition that New York and Long Island remain the top target of al Qaida and its affiliates and need continued federal funding."

Guidance offered for crossing northern border
Buffalo News - May 19, 2011

U.S. and Canadian authorities are offering guidance to travelers who'll be crossing the border during the busy summer season. Representatives from U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Canada Border Services Agency will offer travel tips on both sides of the Peace Bridge linking Buffalo and Fort Erie, Ontario on Thursday. Officials say it's important to have proper identification ready to show to agents - either an enhanced driver's license, passport or passport card. If there's a child in the car who's not part of the family, he should have a note from a parent that includes the parent's name and phone number. Drivers also are advised to turn off radios and cell phones and to take off their sunglasses before driving up to the inspection booths.

Local Duo Busted For Marijuana Distribution
Daily Courier Observer - May 19, 2011

Two local men were among 16 people arrested and charged earlier this month with distributing marijuana as part of a major drug organization in Central New York. Donald Wilbur, 34, of Constable, and Christopher Cooke, 49, of Moira were among those indicted in connection with a large marijuana distribution conspiracy, according to a news release from U.S. Attorney Richard S. Hartunian. According to the release, all of the individuals were indicted by a federal grand jury for conspiring to possess with the intent to distribute and distributing more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana. If convicted, the defendants face a mandatory 10-year minimum sentence, up to a maximum of life imprisonment, up to a \$4 million fine, and at least five years of post-release supervision. The investigation, the release says, included wiretaps on several of the defendants' telephones and revealed the marijuana trafficking organization was responsible for the distribution of approximately 300 to 500 pounds of marijuana per month in central New York. The marijuana is believed to have been grown in Canada, smuggled across the border and then transported to the Syracuse area, where the individuals distributed it to others. To date, the release says, law enforcement officials have recovered approximately 270 pounds of marijuana, 29 guns, \$290,000 in cash, 21 vehicles and drug paraphernalia during the investigation. Also arrested and charged were Octavio Santiago, 41, of Deltona, Fla., Mario Bell, 35, of Syracuse, Kenneth Tarbell, 42, of Nedrow, Dale Lancto, 40, of Baldwinsville, Harry Wilbur, 29, of Syracuse, Jose Cruz, 32, of Syracuse, Phillip Irizarry, 39, of Syracuse, Todd Lauzon, 23, of Mattydale, John Phillips, 40, of Syracuse, Charles Tift, 40, of Syracuse, Michael Arocho, 37, of Syracuse, James Froio, 27, of North Syracuse, Cody Stasko, 22, of Mattydale, and Huey Tarbell, 43, of Syracuse. According to the release, the charges resulted from an investigation undertaken in the spring of 2009 by the Syracuse Resident Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Central New York HIDTA Strike Force, the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Attorney's Office. The HIDTA Strike Force is comprised of agents, detectives and investigators from the DEA, Onondaga County Sheriff's Office, the Syracuse Police Department, and the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office.

Woman's charges dropped in alien-smuggling probe
Watertown Daily Times – May 19, 2011

Federal prosecutors have dropped charges against a Canadian woman accused in April of trying to smuggle illegal aliens into the country at Lisbon Beach. According to documents filed Monday in U.S. District Court, an indictment against Wilma W. Winter, Johnstown, Ontario, was dismissed because of a lack of evidence. Charges remain against her live-in boyfriend, Kenneth S. Reid, and Michael A. Richard, Prescott, Ontario. It is alleged that Mr. Reid tried to bring three people from the United Kingdom into the country illegally by boat April 15 while Mr. Richard waited in a vehicle on shore. Charges of entering the country illegally against two of the United Kingdom citizens were previously dropped after the men agreed to cooperate with prosecutors.

Canadian company delays Great Lakes nuke shipment
Buffalo News - May 18, 2011

A Canadian power company has withdrawn its request for U.S. permission to ship 16 scrapped steam generators with radioactive contents on three of the Great Lakes, saying it wants to consult further with critics of the plan before moving ahead. Bruce Power Inc. received a license from Canada's Nuclear Safety Commission for the operation earlier this year but also needed U.S. approval because the vessel would cross into U.S. territory. The company submitted an application to the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration but recently withdrew it. "Bruce Power will not set a date for shipping the decommissioned steam generators, but will take the necessary time to meet with stakeholder groups to answer any questions they may have about the project," Frank Saunders, vice president for nuclear oversight and regulatory

affairs, said in a letter to the agency. Environmental groups, native tribes and local government officials in both countries have raised concerns about the company's plan for the generators, each the size of a school bus and weighing about 100 tons. The giant boilers contained metal tubes filled with hot water, which created steam that powered electricity-producing turbines. Bruce Power, whose 4,700-megawatt power plant 155 miles northwest of Toronto is the largest in North America, took 32 of the generators out of service in the 1990s and wants to ship them to a Swedish plant for recycling. They would be hauled aboard a 387-foot ship that would depart from a port on Lake Huron's Owen Sound and traverse Lakes Erie and Ontario, plus the St. Lawrence River, before reaching the Atlantic Ocean. The company plans two shipments of 16 generators each. Bruce Power says each generator has less than an ounce of radioactive material and would be welded shut to prevent leaks. Staffers with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission said there would be little if any danger to human health or the environment. But opponents say the risk of a spill is too great, especially in narrow channels that wind through major population centers. They also worry about creating a precedent for allowing other nuclear cargo on the lakes. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, which represents municipalities in the region, says the amount of nuclear waste in the proposed shipment exceeds by 50 times the International Atomic Energy Agency's radioactivity standard for a single freight vessel on the lakes. David Ullrich, the group's executive director, praised Bruce Power's decision to postpone the shipment. "All along, we have felt there was inadequate consultation and inadequate assessment of potential risk," Ullrich said Monday. Bruce Power is not giving up on its plan to recycle the generators, which the company believes would be good for the environment, spokesman John Peevers said. "The important thing is we do this right, not that we do it quickly," company president and chief executive Duncan Hawthorne said in an earlier statement announcing the delay. Rep. Candice Miller, a Michigan Republican, said if Bruce Power resubmits its application, U.S. agencies should conduct "a thorough and factual investigation."

B. **Border Communications**

CBSA Summer Travel Tips: Plan ahead and be prepared

Southern Ontario Region, May 17, 2011 – The Victoria Day and Memorial Day holiday weekends mark the start of the summer season at the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). This summer season, the CBSA anticipates an increase in traveller volumes and would like to advise travellers that this may affect border wait times at some ports of entry.

The CBSA is committed to providing the best possible service, and routinely plans and adjusts staffing levels for anticipated increases in traffic volumes during peak travel periods. Our objective remains to facilitate the travel of legitimate people and goods while maintaining the safety and security of all Canadians.

Travellers can help to expedite their border clearance by planning ahead and being prepared before arriving at the border. Here are some travel tips that will help you prepare:

- Avoid crossing during peak travel times and consider crossing at the least busy port of entry in the area.
- Check [border wait times](#) on the CBSA Web site or on your Web-enabled mobile device at www.wap.gc.ca, or follow us on [Twitter](#) for hourly border wait time updates at BWT_CBSA.

- Ensure that you have proper identification for everyone in the vehicle readily available when you arrive at the border. Acceptable forms of identification for entry into both the United States and Canada include a passport, U.S. passport card, a NEXUS card or an enhanced driver's licence.
- If you are travelling with children, have their identification ready and a letter of permission for any child who is travelling without their parents or travelling with non-custodial parents.
- Know your personal exemptions, including those for alcohol and tobacco. Declare all purchases (including duty-free purchases) and have your receipts for all purchases readily available. Undervaluing or not declaring purchases can result in serious consequences.
- There are no personal exemptions for same-day travel. The Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) is payable on purchases made during same-day crossings, and duties could also be applicable.
- Declare all money or monetary instruments equal to or over CAN\$10,000.
- Souvenirs can be a fun way to remember your trip abroad, but certain goods are prohibited from entering Canada including some food, plant and animal products. Be aware of what goods are prohibited from entering Canada by consulting the [I Declare](#) brochure.
- Use your NEXUS card and save time at air, marine and land ports of entry when entering Canada or the United States. Visit www.nexus.gc.ca for more information or to apply for a membership.

Further information on these [tips](#) and more can be found on the CBSA Web site. For general border inquiries, call our Border Information Service at 1-800-461-9999 in Canada, or at 204-983-3500 or 506-636-5064 outside of Canada (long distance charges will apply).

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Advise Travelers To Prepare For a Busy Holiday Weekend

(Tuesday, May 17, 2011)

Buffalo, New York- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Field Operations reminds travelers planning cross border trips over the next two Holiday weekends (Victoria Day - May 20-23 and Memorial Day - May 27-30) to make sure they have the proper documents and to plan for a possible increase in traffic. CBP officials want to inform the traveling public that there are a number of steps that can be taken to facilitate their arrival into the United States.

Travelers should check traffic conditions at the four border crossings within the Buffalo/Niagara region and select the crossing that is least congested. Travelers can easily obtain current border traffic conditions by calling the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission's toll free number at **(800) 715-6722** or by visiting any of the following websites: www.cbp.gov, cbsa-asfc.gc.ca, nittec.org, peacebridge.com, or niagarafallsbridges.com. (www.cbp.gov) (cbsa-asfc.gc.ca) (nittec.org) (peacebridge.com) (niagarafallsbridges.com)

Travelers should familiarize themselves with the "Know Before You Go" section of the CBP Web site and consult the border wait times page (Know Before You Go) (Wait Times - Airport and Border). Wait time information is updated hourly and is useful in identifying periods of light traffic/short waits. Travelers should have their approved travel documents available for inspection and be prepared to declare all items acquired outside, or being imported into, the U.S.

In compliance with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) implemented June 1, 2009, all travelers, including U.S. and Canadian citizens, need to present an approved travel document to enter the U.S. by land and sea. These documents include a valid Passport, U.S. Passport Card, Trusted Traveler card (NEXUS, SENTRI or FAST) or an Enhanced Driver's License. Children under the age of 16 can present an original or copy of their birth certificate. Please visit the WHTI Web site for additional information (getyouhome.gov).

WHTI compliant, RFID enabled documents help reduce the time it takes to process travelers at the border. No personal identification information is stored on the RFID chip embedded in the cards – only a series of ones and zeros that points to information in a secure CBP database. WHTI document requirements for air travel have been in effect since January 2007.

WHTI is the joint Department of State-Department of Homeland Security plan that implemented a key 9/11 Commission recommendation to establish document requirements for travelers entering the United States who were previously exempt, including citizens of the U.S., Canada and Bermuda.

CBP strongly encourages travelers to obtain a radio frequency identification (RFID) enabled travel document such as a U.S. Passport Card, Enhanced Driver's License/Enhanced Identification Card or Trusted Traveler Program card (NEXUS, SENTRI or FAST/EXPRES) to expedite their entry and make crossing the border more efficient.

CBP also reminds U.S. lawful permanent residents that the I-551 form (green card) is acceptable for land and sea travel into the U.S.

Frequent cross-border travelers are encouraged to participate in the NEXUS program, which allows pre-screened, low-risk travelers to proceed with little or no delay into the United States and Canada. Application forms are available on the Canada Border Services Agency website at www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca and travelers can apply online at www.cbp.gov. Additionally, NEXUS information is available toll-free at **1-866-NEXUS 26 (1-866-639-8726)**. (cbsa-asfc.gc.ca) (www.cbp.gov)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between the official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.

“Improving Security and Facilitating Commerce at America's Northern Border and Ports of Entry” - Senate Judiciary Committee

Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and Border Security -
<http://judiciary.senate.gov/hearings/hearing.cfm?id=5197>

CBP Commissioner Bersin Testifies on Northern Border Security -

http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/congressional_test/bersin_testifies.xml

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 17, 2011

SCHUMER CHAIRS KEY HEARING ON NORTHERN BORDER SECURITY – PRESSES FEDS FOR ANSWERS ON SECURITY FUNDING, ANTI-DRUG TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS, AND RADAR INSTALLATION UPDATES

*Schumer Questions Top DHS Officials On Pre-screening Passenger Trains In
Montreal, Speeding Up Entry Via The Peace Bridge, Other Border Security Priorities*

*Backwards Border Policies Are Letting Drugs And Contraband In, While Slowing
Down International Commerce – Schumer Advances Border Agenda To Reverse The
Trend*

*Schumer: Smart Security Along The NY-Canada Border Needs To Be A Top Priority
For The Department Of Homeland Security*

Today, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer chaired a hearing of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and Border Security, where he pressed top officials from the Department of Homeland Security for progress on and support for a number of Canadian border security initiatives. Schumer organized this morning's hearing, which featured the testimony of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Director John Morton, as well as Alan Bersin, Commissioner of Customs and Border Patrol. In recent months, Senator Schumer has pushed for a complete northern border security agenda, designed to reverse current policies which allow drugs and illegal materials to be smuggled across the border. Schumer also seeks to revamp border policies that slow international commerce with Canada that is essential to Upstate businesses. At the hearing, Schumer received updates on many of his border initiatives, and secured DHS support for future programs designed to secure the border and facilitate healthier cross-border commerce.

“I called this hearing today to advance an agenda that will make the U.S.-Canada border more secure, while facilitating easier trade and commerce between Canadian businesses and those across Upstate New York,” said Schumer. “New York shares over 400 miles of the border with Canada – securing that is essential to our national security. That’s why I’m pushing to bring military grade radar to help detect low-flying planes that might be smuggling drugs, and why I’m pushing to bring in new funding for our state and local governments that are helping to secure the border, and why I want to create a comprehensive strategy to combat new, low-flying aircraft that are quickly becoming a preferred tool of drug pushers. The Canadian border is also essential to our economy, and

I'm pleased that Homeland Security officials agree we need to streamline our screening procedures so that we don't choke off international business. We're making progress on creating a smart border security strategy, but I'm not going to rest until the job is done."

According to statistics from media reports and the Department of Homeland Security, drug smuggling from Canada into the United States is on the rise. Last year, there were more than 24,000 arrests across Upstate New York related to the possession of illicit drugs, an average per-county increase of 84% from 2001. Schumer believes that these figures demand a series of border security solutions designed to identify, investigate, and interdict drug traffickers who travel by land, air, and sea. At the same time, Schumer believes more needs to be done to streamline entry procedures for tourists and Canadian businesspersons seeking to travel to New York. Commerce with Canada accounted for \$38 billion of economic activity in New York State during 2010, according to the Canadian government. New York received 2.6 million visits from Canadians, helping to pump billions into local economies throughout the state.

At the hearing, Schumer pressed the DHS officials for their agency's current plans to make the following border projects a reality:

CBP agreed to work on speeding up commercial traffic from Canada into the United States via the Peace, and Lewiston Queenston bridges - During the hearing, Schumer pointed out that the Peace Bridge is the third busiest commercial crossing in the nation, handling over \$30 billion in commerce between the United States and Canada each year. The Lewiston Queenston crossing comes in just behind the Peace Bridge, as the fourth busiest crossing. Schumer, in response to concerns from business leaders in Western New York who have experienced serious delays in receiving their products coming from Canada, pressed DHS to do more to alleviate these delays. In response, Commissioner Bersin said that they are committed to working with Canadian authorities to segregate high-risk cargo at high-volume crossings like the Peace Bridge, and the Lewiston Queenston crossing, to help expedite the overall processing of commercial traffic. Schumer believes that weeding out high-risk cargo for closer inspection will help improve the flow of commerce across these essential crossings, providing a boost to local businesses in Upstate New York.

CBP committed to collaborating with Amtrak to screen passenger trains in Montreal rather than stopping again at the border, which would cut down on travel delays – Schumer followed up on his April 14, 2011 letter, in which he requested that DHS help establish a prescreening process in Canada so that incoming passenger trains are not forced to stop at the border, creating burdensome delays. Businesses along the route from the North Country down through Albany and into New York City have noted that the additional screening checkpoint creates avoidable delays, and creates a disincentive for Canadian business travelers to visit destinations throughout New York. Schumer is seeking to create a screening facility in the Montreal train station, which would replace the stop-and-screen procedure at the border. Mr. Bersin said today that, in response to Schumer's letter, they have begun working with Amtrak to create a faster and

more efficient way to screen passengers coming from Canada in order to cut down on delays. They expect to have a plan created by the end of the year.

Officials confirmed that DHS will begin tapping into Canadian radar feeds, part of an effort to bring military-grade radar to the Canadian border to detect low flying planes that could be used to smuggle drugs or illegal persons – In February, Schumer joined colleagues from other states along the Northern Border in a letter to Secretary Napolitano, asking that DHS begin utilizing military-grade radar technology along the border in order to detect low-flying planes that are commonly used to smuggle drugs. Schumer cited a report detailing the 24,000 drug-related arrests of adults in 2010 as well as an increase in the number of drugs being seized at border checkpoints as clear evidence that more must be done to combat this alarming problem. Last month, Napolitano said she intended to improve our ability to catch low-flying aircraft by integrating military radar feeds used by Canada with our Air and Marine Operations Command Center. At today's hearing, Commissioner Bersin stated that the radar feed should be operational by November 2011, greatly enhancing our ability to detect and stop low-flying planes that might be loaded down with drugs.

ICE said that the creation a Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) team in Massena, NY is expected by October of this year – Immigrations and Customs Enforcement operates a series of Border Enforcement Security Task Forces (BEST). The teams consist of personnel from ICE, CBP, tribal police, local, state, and Canadian law enforcement working in concert to improve overall border security. Given the success of the BEST team in the Buffalo/Niagara region, Schumer pushed for and successfully secured DHS' commitment to establish a BEST team to be based in Massena, NY. Schumer asked ICE Director Morton today to establish the team as quickly as possible, given the growing drug abuse problem in Upstate New York. In response to Schumer's request, the Director stated that ICE plans to have implemented the team by October of the current year. Schumer pledged his continued support to the mission, and offered any necessary assistance to make sure the team is in place as quickly as possible.

The officials support Schumer's efforts to secure funding from the Operation Stonegarden program, which would be used to augment state and local governments' border security efforts throughout NY – Operation Stonegarden is a federal border security program that provides 3-year grants to tribal nations, state, and local governments in order to augment Border Patrol personnel and resources for patrolling the Northern Border. The Government Accountability Office reports that the program benefitted the four sectors of the Southern Border that received funds, but the current Administration's proposed 2012 budget does call for any of the Stonegarden funds to be sent to the Northern Border. The House appropriations bill for FY2012 includes \$55 million for Operation Stonegarden. During today's hearing, Schumer asked the DHS officials to commit to using the extra funds on the Northern border, provided they are contained in the final appropriations bill that becomes law. CBP Commissioner Bersin said today that Operation Stonegarden has been beneficial to state and local partners who are working to secure the Southern Border, and pledged to use the funds along the Northern Border if they are appropriated for that use. Schumer today said that

he will push for this funding throughout the appropriations process, and strive to implement the successful program along the Northern Border, in addition to the Southern.

DHS confirms that bringing a border security headquarters facility to the Eastern part of the Northern border would help coordinate security programs – Senator Schumer strongly supported the Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy Act of 2010, which requires the Office of National Drug Control Policy to develop a comprehensive, integrated counternarcotics strategy for all agencies to follow along the Northern Border. According to the ONDCP, the full strategy will be released by July 4th of this year. One of the key pieces of the strategy will be the creation of an Operational Integration Center to be based in Detroit. The site will be a centralized location to help gather, analyze, and disseminate operational and strategic data from all levels of government around the Great Lakes Region. Today, Schumer asked Commissioner Bersins if the department would benefit from opening a second center to be based on the eastern part of the border. Bersin noted that it would indeed help the agencies better coordinate in the fight to keep illegal drugs from crossing the border. Given DHS’ support, Schumer supports the creation of another site to be tasked with coordinating the anti-drug efforts on the eastern side of the border, including New York’s North Country.

“At times, we’ve employed a backwards border strategy that let’s drugs in but keeps business out,” continued Schumer. “It’s absolutely critical that we reverse this trend and implement smart policies that will keep drugs out of our communities while encouraging new business and economic opportunities across the state.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 18, 2011

SCHUMER, OWENS ANNOUNCE NORTH COUNTRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE TO CREATE EB-5 REGIONAL CENTER; PLAN WILL UNLEASH ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF REGION, CREATE JOBS

North Country Chamber of Commerce Approved to Form EB-5 Program In Plattsburgh; Center Will Invest in Transportation, Aerospace, Manufacturing, Technology Projects to Create Permanent Jobs

EB-5 Program Joins Foreign Investors With Rural Areas to Create Jobs

Schumer, Owens: Creation of EB-5 Regional Center Shows Economic Potential of North Country

Today U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer and Congressman Bill Owens announced that the North Country Chamber of Commerce’s application to create the North Country EB-5 Regional Center has been accepted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The EB-5 program allows qualified immigrant investors to receive temporary green cards

for their immediate family, in exchange for a \$500,000 investment in rural areas, once cleared by thorough background and financial investigations by immigration services. The Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce applied for this program in August 2010. The program will provide a major investment and create jobs in the North Country. Investment projects and enterprises organized through the North Country EB-5 Regional Center will be intended to create permanent jobs within the boundaries of the Regional Center and promote business development within the region as a whole.

"The approval of the regional center in Plattsburgh is welcome news and will provide much-needed investment and job creation in the North Country," said Senator Schumer. "I am thrilled to have helped guide the regional center in presenting an application that would be met with approval from the immigration service. The fact that CanAm Enterprises and North Country Chamber of Commerce put together a successful application only reinforces what we already knew—that Plattsburgh and the North Country have incredible economic potential, and a world-class workforce worthy of significant financial investments."

"This is an important economic development tool that the North Country Chamber, Sen. Schumer, and myself have worked extremely hard to make a reality," said Owens. "I am pleased that I was able to play a part in contacting USCIS to ensure a fair and expedited review process. I congratulate Garry Douglas for his hard work on this project, and I believe this is going to set the North Country apart as an area of economic investment. The counties covered by this program are now more attractive to international investors who want to expand and create local jobs, which is my top priority."

"This brings an important new economic development tool to the North Country, and should help us leverage valuable foreign investment for job creating projects in the future," states Garry Douglas, President of the North Country Chamber of Commerce. "Foreign Direct Investment magazine recently recognized Plattsburgh as one of the top three micropolitan cities in all of north and south America for economic potential. This funding alternative for projects keys right into our record of attracting foreign investment and should help us achieve that potential. Senator Schumer has been a real champion for us on this as he has been on so many other projects in the North Country. And we want to thank Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Congressman Bill Owens for their support as well," states Douglas.

"CanAm Enterprises is very pleased to be partnering with the North Country Chamber of Commerce on the North Country EB-5 Regional Center," said Tom Rosenfeld, President of CanAm Enterprises. "Having raised over \$1 billion in EB-5 investor funds to date, we look forward to putting our experience and resources to work to facilitate new job creation and economic development in New York State's North Country region."

The North Country EB-5 Regional Center is proposed as a vehicle to facilitate economic development of the North Country Region in the State of New York, by providing business and investment opportunities that may address issues of unemployment in the region. Investment projects and enterprises organized through the North Country EB-5

Regional Center will be intended to create permanent jobs within the boundaries of the Regional Center and promote business development within the region as a whole. The North Country Chamber of Commerce partnered with Can-Am Enterprises in New York City to operate the EB-5 center. Can-Am is one of the leading EB-5 consulting firms in the country, and currently operates EB-5 Regional Centers for the State of Pennsylvania, the State of Hawaii, and the cities of Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

The North Country Chamber of Commerce is a regional chamber serving Clinton, Essex, Franklin and northern Warren Counties in New York State and southern Quebec. With more than 3,200 members, it is the largest business and economic development alliance in northern New York and one of the five largest chambers in the state. It is a local organization of businesses whose goal is to support and encourage the economic and business development of the area. It is comprised of businesses of all sizes and provides networking and learning opportunities for the business community in and around Plattsburgh.

New investments in the North Country EB-5 Regional Center will be made through separate limited partnerships, each formed solely for the purpose of making one or more loans to or equity investments in job-creating businesses located within the geographical boundaries of the North Country EB-5 Regional Center. Each partnership will operate as a new commercial enterprise, which provides for an employment-based preference immigrant visa category for immigrants seeking to enter the United States to engage or invest in a commercial enterprise that will benefit the U.S. economy and create at least ten full-time jobs. Each limited partnership will be comprised of immigrant investors, each investing \$500,000 in capital from legally-sourced funds.

The EB-5 program allows qualified foreign investors to receive residency in exchange for a \$1 million investment or \$500,000 in rural areas, after thorough background and financial investigation by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The North Country center will then consider investment opportunities in several different sectors, including transportation and aerospace, real estate development, manufacturing and trade, and technology. Each individual investment will be responsible for the creation of 10 new jobs.

###

Higgins Fights Move to Exclude Buffalo-Niagara Region from Federal Security Program

Congressman Working to Save Millions for Western New York Border Area

Congressman Brian Higgins (NY-27) is fighting a move that could eliminate millions of dollars in security funding for the City of Buffalo, Erie and Niagara Counties. Late yesterday the Congressman learned that due to funding reductions approved in the FY11 budget, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reduced the list of communities eligible for Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program funding from 64 to 31, effectively removing Western New York from the list.

The final FY11 budget package cut UASI by \$162 million -from \$887 million to \$725 million. Congressman Higgins voted against the legislation.

“This is a glaring example of the real world impact on Western New York of the extreme cuts the new House majority is focused on,” said Higgins, who serves on the Border and maritime Security and Counterterrorism and Intelligence subcommittees. “The budget is a statement of our national priorities. Keeping our border safe, protecting a region with a history of terrorist cell activities should top the list. Yet, we have people in protecting big oil at the expense of national security and that is costing this community and could cost this nation dearly.”

In March Congressman Higgins, a member of the House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee, [led a bipartisan effort](#) opposing an amendment which would have removed the Buffalo-Niagara region from UASI eligible cities and was successful in blocking the measure.

In a call and a [letter](#) to DHS officials Higgins is again fighting to keep this funding in the Western New York Community. Buffalo UASI (City of Buffalo, Erie and Niagara County) has received \$53 million since 2003, ranging from \$5.5 million last year to \$10.3 million in 2003. WNY uses the funds for joint training, preparedness and response to a potential terrorist attack on the Buffalo area.

Below is a copy of Congressman Higgins [letter](#):

May 19, 2011

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20393

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

I write to express my strong opposition to the removal of the Buffalo-Erie-Niagara Area from the list of high-risk urban areas eligible for FY11 UASI funding.

The Buffalo-Erie-Niagara area has been among the nation’s highest-risk urban areas since 2003 because of the threats that it faces, its vulnerability to a terrorist attack, and the consequences of an attack on its numerous assets, resources and critical infrastructure that are tremendously important to the nation.

Buffalo-Erie-Niagara is home to 1.15 million people living in two counties spread over 1,567 square miles. As a northern border community with Canada, Western New York is home to four international bridges; the Peace Bridge, the Rainbow Bridge, the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge and the Whirlpool Bridge. Over 13.8 million commercial and passenger vehicles cross at these locations every year. The Peace Bridge alone represents the busiest passenger crossing at the northern border and transports more than \$30 billion in trade annually. Additionally, Western New York’s location along two Great Lakes, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario has made it the major industrial and commercial center of Upstate New York; with approximately 29.19 million tons of goods transported through the region by 683 ocean ships in 2010. The region is also home to the seventh wonder of the world, Niagara Falls, which attracts 13 million annual visitors to the area. This natural wonder’s hydroelectric power is harnessed by the Niagara Power Project, and is the biggest electricity producer in New York State.

Moreover, past incidents show that the threat of a terrorist attack is present in the Buffalo-Erie-Niagara region, most notably the “Lackawanna Six” who were convicted of providing material

support to Al-Qaeda. The Department of Homeland Security has reported that the terrorist threat on the northern border is higher than the southern border, given its vast porous and maritime landscape. To this end, a December 2010 GAO Report recently warned about the vulnerability of the northern border with only 32 miles out of the 4,000 total miles being secured. In addition, according to documents obtained from bin Laden's Abbottabad compound, there were reported plans to attack the U.S. rail system and to target smaller American cities.

In light of these risks, now is not the time now to eliminate the eligibility of our threatened urban area from UASI funding. We cannot lay the entire financial burden of securing our cities on local authorities, first responders, law enforcement and agencies and expect to adequately protect our citizens and make our cities safe. States and local budgets are being slashed, and these areas need help shouldering the burden so they may continue to prevent and prepare for terrorist threats.

Thank you for consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Slaughter Says Western New York was Wrongly Denied Vital Homeland Security Funding

“Our local law enforcement performs superbly day in and day out and by denying them continued funding puts us all at risk”

Rochester, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today said that Western New York was unjustly removed from the list of areas that received federal funding as part of a grant program meant to assist local law enforcement deal with the threat of terrorist attacks.

Today the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced grant funding for the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), a program designed to help local law enforcement in areas considered to be at high risk for terrorist attacks. Among the cities to receive funding: Tampa (\$5.4 M), Orlando (3.6 M), Cleveland (\$3.5 M), Cincinnati (\$3.4 M) and Portland (\$5.02 M), but not Buffalo or Rochester.

Last year, Buffalo and Rochester each received funding as part of the UASI program, \$5,544,750 and \$2,307,800 respectively. In fact, Buffalo's application, in a joint effort with Erie County and Niagara County, received national recognition for the quality of their proposal. More on past funding is available [here](#).

“In Western New York we appreciate the many national security needs across the country, but when Buffalo and Rochester, two cities along our northern border are denied funding when smaller municipalities in America's interior receive funding, I have to question our security priorities,” said Slaughter. “Frankly, we were wrongly denied this vital funding. Our local law enforcement performs superbly day in and day out and Western New York is home to several major international border crossings. Denying our area continued funding puts us all at risk.”

In March, Slaughter signed a letter to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees expressing opposition to an amendment that would restrict the eligibility for the UASI program from 64 high risk urban areas to 25 high risk urban areas, including Buffalo and Rochester.

"We cannot lay the entire financial burden of securing our cities on local authorities, first responders, law enforcement and agencies and expect to adequately protect our citizens and make our cities safe," Slaughter said with other lawmakers.

A copy of the letter is included below.

Western New York did receive funding from two grant programs announced by DHS today, the Port Security Grant Program where Buffalo was awarded \$1.4 million and an undetermined portion of \$1.4 million made available to Buffalo and Rochester as part of the Metropolitan Medical Response Program. In total, the amounts are relatively unimpressive given our proximity to the border.

A summary of received funding is included below.

Letter to House and Senate Appropriations Chairmen and Ranking Members

Dear Chairman Inouye, Ranking Member Cochran, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

We write to express our strong support for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program and our opposition to an amendment that was adopted during House consideration of the Fiscal Year 2011 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act that would restrict the eligibility for the UASI program from 64 high risk urban areas to 25 high risk urban areas. We urge you to remove the language from the final FY 2011 appropriations package.

As you know, the UASI program plays an important role in the ability of state and local agencies, authorities, first responders and law enforcement to regionally prepare for and coordinate efforts against homeland security threats. Specifically, the UASI program provides financial assistance to ensure that high-threat, high-density urban areas have the capability to prevent, protect, respond and recover from homeland security threats.

While we understand that cities in Tier 1 face the highest risk of a terrorist attack, the threat and risk to our communities are real as well. Our cities are not invulnerable to terrorist attacks and disasters. As you know, the Secretary of Homeland Security assesses and evaluates the relative risk of terrorism faced by the 100 most populous metropolitan statistical areas in the United States to determine which cities are in need of UASI funds to prepare and respond to homeland security threats. The risk analysis looks at what the potential threat is, what the vulnerability is, and what the consequences are if attacked.

The communities we represent contain numerous assets, resources and critical infrastructure that are vulnerable to attack and that are tremendously important to the nation. Our first responders are right to hold training exercises and coordinate response scenarios. This valuable preparedness comes at a cost, and at a time when state and local budgets are being slashed, now is not the time to eliminate the eligibility of our threatened urban areas from UASI funding. We cannot lay the entire financial burden of securing our cities on local authorities, first responders, law enforcement and agencies and expect to adequately protect our citizens and make our cities safe.

Please remove this harmful UASI language from the final FY2011 appropriations package and ensure our cities have the necessary capabilities to safeguard our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this important national security matter.

Sincerely,

Funding Received by Western New York:

Buffalo- \$1,455,521

Port Security Grant Program

In FY 2011, the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) provides \$235,029,000 for transportation infrastructure security activities to implement Area Maritime Transportation Security Plans and facility security plans among port authorities, facility operators, and State and local government agencies required to provide port security services.

Buffalo, Rochester, New York City, Syracuse and Yonkers- \$1,408,465

Metropolitan Medical Response Program

The FY 2011 Metropolitan Security Grant Program (MMRS) provides \$34,929,932 to support the integration of emergency management, health, and medical systems into a coordinated response to mass casualty incidents caused by any hazard.

published May 19, 2011

Focus 2011: Business at the Border

Monday, June 6

8:00 to 8:45 Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:45 to 9:00 Welcome

- Robert Horr, Executive Director, Thousand Islands Bridge Authority
- Howard Kelly, Director, The Capital Corridor

9:00 to 10:00 The Business of Bi-National Trade

A high-level look at the Canada-US trading relationship

- Marta Moszczenska, Consul General, Consulate General of Canada, Buffalo, NY
- Sue Saarnio, Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Ottawa, Ontario

10:00 to 10:30 Break & Networking

10:30 to 11:45 The Business of Tourism

The importance of cross-border travel to regional tourism

- Gary S. DeYoung, Director of Tourism, Thousand Islands Regional Tourism Development Corporation
- Peter Pantuso, President & CEO, American Bus Association

11:45 to 1:00 Lunch & Networking

- Special Guest Speaker: Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand, (D-NY) *(invited)*

1:00 to 2:15 The Business of Energy

Wind, Solar, Bio-fuels - where are we going?

- Darrell Veres, Plant Manager, GreenField Ethanol, Johnstown, Ontario
- Linda Dickerson Hartsock, VP, CenterState Corporation for Economic Opportunity & Executive Director of the Clean Tech Center, The Tech Garden, Syracuse, NY

2:15 to 2:45 Break & Networking

2:45 to 4:00 The Business of Agriculture

More than just dairy

- Steve Conaway, Owner, 1000 Islands Winery, Alexandria Bay, NY
- Tom Lawler, Owner, Eagle Point Winery, Mallorytown, Ontario
- Jeff Pierce, VP, Morris Northstar Hatchery, Watertown, NY

5:00 Shuttle boat leaves Edgewood dock for Reception at Boldt Castle on Heart Island.

5:30 to 7:30 Boldt Castle Reception

7:30: Shuttle returns to Edgewood

Tuesday, June 7

7:30 to 8:30 Registration & Hot Buffet Breakfast

8:15 to 8:45 Special Guest Speaker: Gord Brown, Member of Parliament for Leeds-Grenville

8:45 to 10:00 The Business of Transportation

Highways, Borders and Corridors

- Mark Seymour, President & CEO, Kriska, Prescott, Ontario
- Jacques Rochon, Executive Director, Gateway Policy, Transport Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
- Pat Jones, CEO, International Bridge, Tunnel & Turnpike Association, Washington, DC

10:00 to 10:30 Break & Networking

10:30 to 11:45 The Business of the Military

The economic impact of bases on the regional economy

- Colonel Rick Fawcett, Base Commander, Canadian Forces Base, Kingston Ontario
- Michael Richardson, Community Plans Specialist, Fort Drum, NY

11:45 to 1:00 The Business of Regional Economic Development

Job attraction and retention - a regional emphasis

- Dave Paul, Director, Economic Development, City of Brockville, Ontario
- Michelle Capone, Deputy Comptroller, Development Authority of the North Country, Watertown, NY
- Jim Fayle, Empire State Development, Watertown, NY

12:30 to 1:30 Lunch, Networking & Conference Wrap Up



howardkelly@thecapitalcorridor.com

Focus 2011: Business at the Border

June 6 & 7 – The Edgewood Resort, Alexandria Bay, NY

Directions to The Edgewood

- Exit 50N from I-81
- Follow Route 12 towards Alexandria Bay
- Edgewood entrance on your left just past Sunoco station

Conference Discussion Topics

- The Business of Bi-National trade
- The Business of Tourism
- The Business of Energy
- The Business of Agriculture
- The Business of Transportation
- The Business of the Military
- The Business of Regional Economic Development

Conference Hotel

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Edgewood Resort & Conference Center. Mention the Capital Corridor to get the special rates. The block will be available until May 28.

www.theedgewoodresort.com

(315) 482-9923



Registration Form

Fax Registration Forms to: The Capital Corridor@ (315) 482-6064

Name

Title Company

Address

City State/Prov Zip

Phone Fax

E-Mail

Method of Payment

Checks (Payable to TIBA)

VISA

MasterCard

Card Number

Expiration Date & Security Code

Signature

Conference Fee: \$125

Includes 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, Boldt Castle Monday Evening Reception

I will/will not (please circle one) travel to the Boldt Castle reception on Monday evening

For further information: howardkelly@thecapitalcorridor.com (315) 482-2501

C. Editorials/Columns

Border searches - Restrict access to electronic devices Watertown Daily Times – May 20, 2011

Today's technology allows Americans to always have confidential personal information, photographs or details of business transactions at their fingertips on laptops and smartphones. Ordinarily, the data might be considered private, but not when you're boarding a plane or returning to the country from a visit to Canada or Mexico. Then Customs officials are free to seize your laptop, rummage through it and maybe hold on to it indefinitely. They may even share its contents with other agencies. And they don't need a reason or a search warrant, either. It has happened to more than 6,500 people between Oct. 1, 2008, and June 2, 2010, according to the Constitution Project. The bipartisan panel wants to limit electronic fishing expeditions. The Department of Homeland Security defends warrantless searches as necessary to protect against terrorism, but also in search of child pornography, drugs and other smuggling activity. It says laptop computer searches have been conducted against less than one-tenth of 1 percent of all travelers. Under DHS rules, searches can take place at any port of entry or elsewhere, even without the owner present. There is considerable potential for abuse of the intrusive searches. Federal appeals courts have upheld the warrantless searches, mainly to detect child pornography. The American Civil Liberties Union argues they violate the Fourth Amendment requirement for search warrants. This is not just about looking through a few belongings in a suitcase; it is about invading personal lives. In its report, the Constitution Project said there should be reasonable suspicion of wrongdoing to justify a search. If the government decides to keep data or takes longer than 24 hours for a search, it should obtain a search warrant first. Some devices have been held for months before they were returned. The scope of the search should be limited, the report said. Legislation has been introduced in Congress in the past to curb the searches by requiring probable cause. Limits should also be imposed on how long devices may be held and who will have access to material seized.

D. Citizens Views (write-in letters)