



HOMELAND SECURITY & DEFENSE BUSINESS COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN SUSAN COLLINS (R-ME) AND CHAIRMAN PETE KING (R-NY) TO RECEIVE THE HOMELAND SECURITY & DEFENSE BUSINESS COUNCIL'S FIRST ANNUAL "DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD"

Date: November 14, 2006

Washington, D.C. -- Today Michael Meldon, Executive Director of the Homeland Security & Defense Business Council (the Council), announced that The Honorable Susan Collins (R-ME) and The Honorable Peter T. King (R-NY) will receive the Council's first annual "Distinguished Service Award." The Awards will be presented on Thursday, December 7, 2006, during a ceremony at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Collins, Chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, is serving her second term in the U.S. Senate. She also serves on the Armed Services Committee and the Special Committee on Aging. Previously, she served for six years on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Senator Collins was also the first freshman Senator ever to lead the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. Senator Collins coauthored the Collins-Lieberman intelligence reform legislation, which was signed into law in December 2004. The law represents the most sweeping changes to our intelligence community in more than 50 years and implements many of the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission.

King, Chairman of the U.S. Congressional Committee on Homeland Security, is serving his seventh term in the U.S. House of Representatives. He has distinguished himself through his strong advocacy of threat-based funding for homeland security grants and his passionate support for the war on terrorism at home and abroad. Chairman King has gained a reputation for his independence, integrity, candid discussions and straightforward approach to homeland security policy. He has received numerous awards for his leadership and patriotism, and has authored several books based on his personal political experience.

The Council's Distinguished Service Award will be presented annually to senior Government officials who have exhibited extraordinary public service and unwavering leadership with regard to homeland security issues. Candidates for the Award are selected based on their accomplishments in the national homeland security realm. Ideal candidates are those who have exceeded the traditional expectations of public servants in order to improve the security of the United States.

Meldon announced, "The Council feels that Chairman Collins and Chairman King embody the leadership qualities and steadfast principles for that the Distinguished Service Award represents. Their hard work and strong values make Chairman Collins and Chairman King the ideal choices for our first annual Distinguished Service Awards."

About the Council: The Council facilitates a collaborative dialogue among the federal government agencies responsible for homeland security and defense, the legislative branch, state and local government, and the private sector to develop innovative solutions and promote the sharing of best practices across organizational boundaries.

The Council is different from other industry organizations because it is focused, exclusively, on ensuring that the private sector is aligned to the priorities of federal and state and local government and focused on the advancement of homeland security capabilities within both the public and the private sectors.

To advance the role of Industry, the Council provides opportunities for discussion with senior executives and leaders at the Department of Homeland Security as well as the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services that share responsibility in the homeland security mission. The Council also informs and educates Capitol

Hill lawmakers and senior professional staff about homeland security challenges, technologies, and best practices.

The Council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing its Principal members who share primary responsibility for each member company's homeland security-related activities. The Council defines itself through an activities-based approach that brings industry perspectives on policy, program, technology, and business processes that help deliver on the mission for homeland security across the public and private sectors.

###