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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

April 17, 2008

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

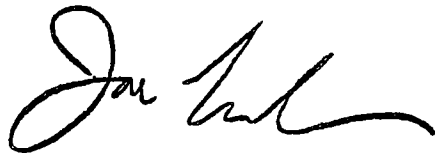
In the 6 ½ years since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Congress and the Administration have passed laws to strengthen terrorism-related information sharing, and ensure that relevant federal, state and local agencies are able to share information effectively and efficiently. We are safer today because of these improvements to information sharing and collaboration. We are writing today to ask that you take prompt action on an issue that will create additional improvements to information sharing: the issuance of Executive Branch guidance that would standardize procedures for Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) information.

At present, there is no uniformity in the use of SBU designations within the federal government. An audit by the Government Accountability Office in 2006 identified 56 distinct SBU designations used by agencies. There is inadequate and often unclear guidance for the handling and dissemination of SBU information. This lack of uniformity creates a significant remaining barrier to effective information sharing.

On December 16, 2005, in your memorandum on "Guidelines and Requirements in Support of the Information Sharing Environment," you directed federal agencies to examine their use of SBU designations and submit recommendations for the standardization of SBU procedures.

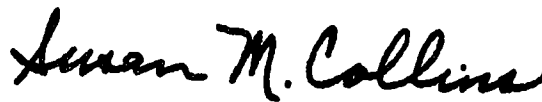
It is our understanding that a report which includes recommendations on standardizing the procedures for SBU information, including the creation of a new Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) designation, has cleared the interagency process and is awaiting your approval.

We urge you to sign off on this report and direct agencies to implement its recommendations as soon as possible. These actions are a necessary and critical step in knocking down the bureaucratic barriers to information-sharing, and will make our country safer.



Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman

Sincerely



Sen. Susan Collins
Ranking Member

cc: Josh Bolten, Stephen Hadley, Jim Nussle, Kenneth Wanstein