

June 8, 2006 - Slaughter Submits Testimony to Judiciary Oversight Hearing on WHTI

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After Testifying to the Canadian Senate, Slaughter Submits Testimony to Judiciary Oversight Hearing on WHTI
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Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today submitted testimony to the House Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims Oversight, which was holding a hearing on "The Need to Implement WHTI to Protect U.S. Homeland Security." In her testimony, she advocated for legislation she has brought before the U.S. House - the Protecting American Commerce and Travel Act, or PACT Act - designed to correct inherent flaws in the WHTI plan and maintain a secure northern border that is open to legitimate travel and trade.

As a recognized leader on U.S./Canada border issues, Rep. Slaughter was invited to testify yesterday before the Canadian Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade, and Commerce, where she spoke about the proposed Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) and her PACT Act. She was hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Canada, and in addition to her official testimony met with Ambassador David Wilkins, the U.S. Ambassador to Canada; Ambassador Michael Wilson, the Canadian Ambassador to the U.S.; Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Minister Stockwell Day; and Canadian legislators in the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group.

In her testimony to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Representative Slaughter stated, "It should be of great concern to all of my colleagues that DHS and State are pursuing a deeply flawed WHTI plan. Congress must step-in and insist that DHS and State change course, otherwise our border security will remain weak and the U.S. economy will suffer the consequences."

She continued, "[The PACT Act] is a bipartisan effort to bring common-sense solutions to this critical problem," concluding, "Congress faces a critical decision. We cannot allow the current WHTI proposal to unnecessarily destroy the economic and cultural ties between the US and Canada. If we do not move to fix it, DHS and State will continue down this course that will be disastrous for both countries. We can simultaneously achieve both strong border security and economic security with Canada, but only if Congress acts soon."

Rep. Slaughter's complete testimony can be found [here](#).

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