

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 18, 2004

Andrew Card  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Card:

I am writing to ask that when the Administration reviews the 9/11 Commission report in July to ensure no classified material that will damage national security is released, no one in a political post is involved in the vetting process.

According to Governor Thomas Kean, Chairman of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, you will be in charge of coordinating the review of the Commission's report to ensure that it protects intelligence sources and methods while ensuring that the review is completed expeditiously so the report can be made public as quickly as possible. I strongly support the Administration's reviewing the report to safeguard national security secrets, however I am troubled that any White House employee in a political post will be involved in the process.

The 9/11 Commission is entirely bipartisan, with five Democrats and five Republicans serving as Commissioners. By and large, the Commissioners have conducted themselves in a non-partisan manner. Democrats have challenged Clinton Administration witnesses and Republicans have challenged Bush Administration witnesses. The Commission's interim staff reports have shown neither fear nor favor to either party. As a result, the families of the victims and the public at-large have great confidence that the Commission's final report will be a full, honest, and unexpurgated analysis of what went wrong, why it went wrong, and what we must do to prevent such horrors from happening again.

The White House should take all reasonable steps to guarantee that there will be no appearance of impropriety should any section of the report require redaction. To that end, I urge you to task a non-political agency, entity, or team to conduct the review and ensure the expedited release of as much of the report as can be made public. Whoever is chosen for the job, they must be independent of the White House and their identity must be made publicly known.

I look forward to hearing from you soon regarding the steps you will take to ensure that the final report from the Commission is untainted by even the appearance of politics. Public confidence in the Commission's final report requires no less.

Sincerely,



Charles Schumer  
U.S. Senator