

Altmire Votes for Strong, Comprehensive Legislation to Make America Safer

(Washington, DC) - U.S. Representative Jason Altmire (PA-4) today joined a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives to support legislation that will make America safer by finally enacting the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. The Conference Report on H.R. 1 is one of the most critical bills of the 110th Congress and is a major step in advancing the "Six for '06" agenda. The House passed the conference report this afternoon by a vote of 371 to 40.

"The latest National Intelligence Estimate contains the alarming news that Al-Qaeda is as strong as it was in the days leading up to the terrorist attacks on 9/11," said Congressman Altmire. "This legislation will make America safer by enacting the recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission. This bill is a significant step forward in protecting the American people and improving our national security."

The Conference Report on H.R. 1 includes a number of long-overdue steps to substantially improve homeland security and better protect America from terrorism - ranging from ensuring that first responders have the equipment they need to strengthening efforts to prevent WMDs from falling into terrorist hands. The measure will require 100% scanning of U.S.-bound seaborne containers before they leave foreign ports within five years, and also requires 100% screening of cargo on passenger aircraft within three years.

"Previous sessions of Congress failed over the last three years to enact the 9/11 Commission's recommendations," added Congressman Altmire. "This is a significant, major accomplishment for the 110th Congress. We are meeting the commitment we made as part of the "Six for '06" to strengthen our homeland security."

The House vote follows last night's Senate passage of the Conference Report on H.R. 1 by a vote 85 to 8. The bill now moves to the president's desk for signature.