

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 20, 2008

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Nebraska Avenue Center, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary:

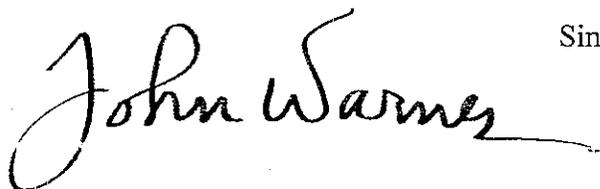
On June 18, 2008, our offices met with members of your staff and representatives from the City of Alexandria, Virginia to discuss the establishment and operation of an ethanol transfer station in Alexandria, Virginia. As America moves toward greater use of biofuels, the need for more offloading facilities will undoubtedly increase. In our view, it is important for the federal, state, and local governments to thoroughly understand the risks associated with such facilities and for common carriers and governments to work together to minimize and alleviate such risks.

Accordingly, we are writing to request a DHS threat analysis of the Norfolk Southern ethanol transfer station in Alexandria, Virginia. Specifically, we request your prompt action to determine what specific threats the location of an ethanol offloading facility to a year-round elementary school, Metro station, and dense residential area might pose. We believe this will require consideration of: any inherent dangers of ethanol to the health and safety of the community; the specific security provisions necessary to prevent unauthorized access to the transloading site; the dangers that could exist if such security were compromised; whether adequate steps necessary for public health and safety are in place to protect against and respond to threats; whether sufficient homeland security steps, actions and coordination between the railroad and local police, fire, health, and emergency responders have been taken; and what technologies for rail and truck transporters are necessary to ensure homeland security protection.

We request that you proceed expeditiously on this threat analysis, particularly given the vast quantities of ethanol that are being transferred in this community. It is our hope that your analysis includes a determination as to whether there is sufficient coordination between Norfolk Southern and Tucker Elementary School, the adjacent community, and the respective public safety agencies and responders of the City of Alexandria.

Similarly, we trust that your analysis will examine the potential threats not just from the transloading operations, but also from the truck routing and frequencies from the site. Because this site is already in operation, it is critical to us to ensure that the most effective technologies, equipment, and policies are in place to protect vulnerable populations as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Senator John Warner



Congressman Jim Moran