



One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 23, 2023

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
H2-117 Ford House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Thompson:

Thank you for your letter in response to the two working groups I intend to establish. I too am proud of the Committee's bipartisan reputation for tackling difficult homeland security challenges and appreciate your willingness to work together on these two important areas – reforming the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Program and conducting a comprehensive review of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

You raised numerous questions in your letter that deserve legitimate consideration, to include whether these issues should be addressed solely within the relevant subcommittees instead of establishing working groups. To that end, I would like to meet with you to discuss these issues when we return from August recess and then have our staffs solidify the details of the working groups.

It is my intention that these working groups will be informal, off the record forums for Members on both sides to discuss bipartisan reforms to these critical areas. I do not intend to establish formal “special panels” as laid out in Committee Rule III nor am I prepared to predetermine the timelines, activities, or outcomes of the groups. I believe that if we empower our Members to lead and determine the best path forward then they will be able to find common ground on necessary reforms to both CFATS and DHS. If the working groups recommend formal action – e.g., hearings, markups, reports – then those can be properly worked through either the relevant subcommittee or the full Committee if necessary.

Thank you again for your willingness to address these ongoing challenges. I look forward to meeting with you to discuss this further when we are back in September.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark E. Green". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "E".

Mark E. Green, M.D.
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security