

**Statement of Congressman Robert E. "Bud" Cramer, Jr.  
Hearing on the Standup of  
the Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
Before the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence  
October 19, 2005**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to be brief because time is very valuable for our witnesses today. I have already read your statements that you have presented. You are offering some provocative comments that we need to hear, and I think we need to hear them in open session.

I have enjoyed working with you, Mr. Chairman, and the chairman of the full committee, as well as our Ranking Member, Jane Harman, to make sure that we give this issue focused, bipartisan attention and support when we can.

As the chairman commented, the legislation, passed by Congress, was an effort on our part to refocus our Intelligence Community and to recommit our assets. It was brilliant in the eyes of some but a misstep in the eyes of others, and we need your comments here today. Just moving the boxes around a government chart is not enough.

As we saw after Hurricane Katrina -- which affected my home State of Alabama -- reorganization does not guarantee improved government performance. Congress must ensure that the vision we put into law now becomes reality and that positive changes are implemented at all levels within the Intelligence Community.

I hope our witnesses know that the Oversight Subcommittee is new to the Committee. We have needed this subcommittee. We in Congress deserve our share of blame. We are not blameless here. I have enjoyed reading your comments, Admiral Studeman, particularly about Congressional oversight and I invite you to offer us more detail about that. But I think it is important that we hear from you and have your reaction to the stand-up of the DNI. We have had some events recently in New York and in Baltimore that make me wonder if we are, in fact, where we need to be at this particular point in the Intelligence Community. So, I look forward to your comments today.