

STATEMENT OF MR. LAURENCE D. BORY
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HDR

BEFORE THE NATIONAL SECURITY, EMERGING THREATS, INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

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Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee, my name is Laurence Bory, Vice President of Federal Government Relations of HDR, a national architectural and engineering firm with more than 3500 employees in eighty offices. HDR also has a wholly owned subsidiary, HDR Security Operations, headquartered in Orlando, Florida. I am pleased to testify today on improving the procurement of the Department of Homeland Security.

HDR has substantial experience providing services of many kinds to a broad range of federal agencies. We have more than 30 years of experience working with contracting officers in the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Air Force and other Defense agencies, US Department of Transportation, US Department of State, US Department of Treasury, US Environmental Protection Agency, US General Services Administration, as well as the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Border Patrol, and Customs Service, now part of the DHS (Department of Homeland Security).

I endorse the comments of the Homeland Security Industries Association. HDR was an early member. I would like to make two additional points to the Subcommittee.

DHS needs a strong central procurement directorate. Our experience with DHS constituent agencies has been favorable and we look forward to continuing to provide services to the newly created BICE (Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement). We urge, however, that the existing procurement processes of the constituent agencies not be interrupted while the DHS develops its own acquisition regulations. We also urge that DHS acquisition regulations incorporate the Brooks Act (FAR Part 36) for all A/E services.

Finally, we are concerned that there is inadequate competition for many new initiatives in DHS. Our experience is that some security initiatives have been sole sourced by use of the GSA Supply Schedule. We believe that complex analysis such as vulnerability assessments are too important and too numerous in terms of the number of separate critical infrastructure facilities which must be assessed to rely on the capacity and capability of a single firm.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be pleased to answer any questions.