

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION**

Opening Statement for Subcommittee Ranking Member Phil Gingrey (R-GA)

Next Generation Border and Maritime Security Technologies: HR 3916

Thursday, November 15, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Good Morning Chairman Wu. I want to first thank you for holding this hearing on H.R. 3916 the border security bill introduced by the distinguished Ranking Member of the Full Committee, Mr. Hall of Texas. As an original cosponsor of H.R. 3916, I am pleased to see that the Science Committee – and specifically the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation – is taking an active role in securing our borders, which I believe is one of the most important issues facing this Congress and our country as a whole.

Mr. Chairman, I commend both you and Chairman Gordon for cosponsoring this legislation that improves long term planning for R&D at the Department of Homeland Security in border and maritime security technology. As a member of the Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus, I support and have authored legislation that will secure our borders and discourage illegal immigration. I believe that H.R. 3916 will assist the DHS and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency in long-term utilization of technology to help us secure our border from threats that face our nation.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to hearing today's testimony from our panel on this vital issue of border security and the solutions they have that will enable us to plan for the use of emerging technologies in the future. With that Mr. Chairman, I yield back.