

**Opening Statement
of
House Financial Services Committee Vice Chair
Rep. Judy Biggert**

**DIMP Hearing on
“Foreign Investment, Jobs and National Security: The CFIUS Process.”**

Feb. 27, 2006

Thank you, Chairman Pryce.

I would like to associate myself with both Chairman Oxley and Chairman Pryce's remarks and add just a few comments.

Since September 11th, 2001, we all have maintained a heightened sense of awareness when it comes to anything or anyone crossing or operating within our borders. We also have formed alliances, both at home and abroad, that have strengthened our ability to track terrorists and their financing and dismantle their operations.

However, we have accomplished this primarily by opening the lines of communication within our borders and among our international partners. Communication is an exercise in education, trust, and coordination. When communication fails or there is no communication, there is mayhem, much like that surrounding this Dubai Ports World agreement.

One of the reasons that we are here today is to open those lines of communication to determine if CFIUS did its job. Should the head of CFIUS -- Treasury -- have informed Congress about something as sensitive as foreign ownership of a company that manages our nation's ports? I believe that the answer is pretty clear. Recent reactions to the proposed agreement from Members of Congress and the American public should be enough of an indication that, at a minimum, Congress needs to be kept in the loop on deals involving national security.

Today's hearing also gives the American public an opportunity to learn first-hand about CFIUS and to get answers to other questions. Did CFIUS follow the letter of the law when reviewing the Dubai Ports World agreement? Is the law unclear? Should Congress require CFIUS to conduct a more rigorous review process?

As the Vice Chair of the Subcommittee with jurisdiction over CFIUS, I am pleased that our Subcommittee is taking action to educate ourselves and the American public on the specifics of this deal and the CFIUS process. I look

forward to hearing from our witnesses today and thank the Chairman for her leadership in holding this important hearing.