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## COMMISSION ON THE PREVENTION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROLIFERATION AND TERRORISM

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November 5, 2009

Mr. John O. Brennan  
Deputy National Security Advisor and Assistant to the President  
for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Brennan,

We are pleased to note that a number of the WMD Commission's recommendations are gaining greater attention by both the Congress and the Obama Administration.

A number of the issues on which the Commission has made recommendations are complex in nature and thus create opportunity for confusion. For this reason, we want to clarify the Commission's position on lab security. The Commission's report, *World at Risk*, recommended that the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, should take the lead in streamlining the inspection and oversight of laboratories that conduct research using Select Agents.

Since the release of the report, we have conducted additional research on this important question and are even more certain that consolidation of regulatory responsibilities under the HHS Secretary is the correct course of action. We want to be unambiguous on this point.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call either of us, or Col. Randy Larsen, our Executive Director.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Graham".

Bob Graham  
Chairman

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Talent".

Jim Talent  
Vice Chairman