

**OPENING STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN PAUL E. KANJORSKI
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**HEARING ON THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT:
IDENTIFYING AND PREVENTING TERRORIST FINANCING**

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2004

Mr. Chairman, we meet today to examine the issues related to terrorist financing identified in the Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States. As you know, our panel has worked diligently in recent years to address these matters. In order to protect all Americans, we must continue to make every reasonable effort to identify, discourage and stop terrorist financing.

Late last month, the 9-11 Commission released its much-anticipated final report, which examines the circumstances surrounding the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. This report provides many thoughtful recommendations for preventing future strikes.

While the majority of the report addresses intelligence issues, to a limited degree it also studies the issue of terrorist financing. I was pleased that the 9-11 Commission concluded that we have fixed the obvious vulnerabilities in the U.S. financial system regarding terrorist financing. The panel also recommends that vigorous efforts to track terrorist financing must remain "front and center" in ongoing counterterrorism efforts by the U.S. government. I wholeheartedly agree with this wise counsel.

Although we have made steady progress in combating terrorist financing, the 9-11 Commission has determined that terrorists have shown considerable creativity in altering their financing methods. It further suggests that if a decentralized system of terrorist cells evolves, we may then need to alter the tactics used to identify and prevent terrorist financing. On this point, the *Wall Street Journal* reported just last week that al Qaeda is forming smaller terrorist cells. It is therefore my hope that our witnesses will offer us their ideas as to how we can maintain a dynamic anti-terrorist financing enforcement system in light of this development.

While we must diligently work to obstruct terrorist financing, we must also protect the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens. The Fourth Amendment protects individuals against unreasonable searches and seizures, and requires the government to support its warrants with probable cause. I consider these protections among our most important constitutional defenses.

Mr. Chairman, I would be remiss if I did not point out that the historical origins of the Fourth Amendment also affected the naming of at least one city in Pennsylvania. Specifically, the amendment's drafters knew of the famous cases involving John Wilkes taking place in England during the 1760s, and they sought to strike a fair balance between society's demand for public safety and the individual's need for privacy. The City of Wilkes-Barre in the heart of my congressional district derives its name in part from John Wilkes. I want to protect this legacy.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, it is important that we carefully examine the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission, and work in a bipartisan, deliberative and balanced manner to continue to monitor our government's efforts to fight terrorist financing and, if necessary, adopt further reforms to enhance current enforcement capabilities. I look forward to hearing from our distinguished witnesses regarding these important matters and yield back my remaining time.
