

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2006

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to strongly urge you to release to the public the report prepared by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General (DHS-OIG), which assessed the process for screening and inspecting municipal solid waste trucks that cross the Canadian-Michigan border. This report was prepared pursuant to a 2003 request we made for an investigation into the screening process; we argued that, for national security reasons, these shipments must be screened as effectively as other types of cargo entering the country. The report we received from the DHS-OIG, which is labeled "For Official Use Only," confirms exactly what we suspected: municipal waste trucks that come into the United States from Canada cannot be adequately inspected.

We are greatly troubled by your Department's refusal to release the report of this investigation. The summary, which has been publicly released, glosses over the serious and alarming findings of the report. We find no basis for not releasing the entire report publicly and we urge you to release the report.

After reading the report, we are even more convinced of the inability to effectively inspect trash trucks entering the U.S. from Canada. This problem is a threat to our security. Since there is no practical way to adequately inspect these trash trucks, we simply should not allow them into this country.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives

Debbie Stabenow
Member of Congress
U.S. Senate

Carl Levin
Member of Congress
U.S. Senate