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Dear Families of 9-11 Victims:

The mandate of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (better known as the 9-11 Commission) is to “make a full and complete accounting of the circumstances surrounding the attacks” and report on its “findings, conclusions, and recommendations for corrective measures that can be taken to prevent acts of terrorism.” Signed into law by President Bush in November 2002, the Commission is required to report to the Nation by May 2004.

Many family members, especially those of the Family Steering Committee, were instrumental in the creation of this Commission. The Commission is dedicated to working on behalf of the safety and security of the American people and the thousands of families who lost loved ones on September 11, 2001. As chair and vice chair, we hope to reach out to as many family members as possible, both directly and through the Commission’s family liaisons—Ellie Hartz and Emily Walker.

Ellie Hartz is a family member herself whose husband, John, worked for Fiduciary Trust on the 92nd Floor of the South Tower. Emily Walker was working in World Trade Center 7 on September 11, 2001. She is a survivor, who, in addition to serving as a family liaison, is a member of the team investigating the immediate response to the attacks in New York City and the Pentagon. Emily and Ellie are available to provide information about the Commission’s progress, answer any questions that you may have, and relay your input to the Commission and its staff. Both are based at the Commission’s New York Office, which is located in lower Manhattan. You may reach them through our toll-free number—1-866-862-0556—or via email at familyliaison@9-11commission.gov.

We also encourage you to visit our Web site—www.9-11commission.gov—which includes a section designed especially for family members. In addition to general information about the Commission, the site features announcements, hearing transcripts, and archived video for all of the Commission’s public events.

We want to assure you that the Commission is committed to finding answers to your questions, and making recommendations to help prevent another terrorist attack. The Commission’s work does not end with its final report; we will work actively to put its recommendations into effect. This will be a very challenging task, and we welcome your support.

Very sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Thomas H. Kean in black ink.

Thomas H. Kean

Handwritten signature of Lee H. Hamilton in black ink.

Lee H. Hamilton