Statement of Senator Richard C. Shelby
Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
March 26, 2009

- Thank you Mr. Chairman.

- I think the events of the last few days have made it clear that our efforts must remain directed at dealing with the problems in the financial system.

- As we have seen from the huge swings in the markets with each announcement coming from Washington, the situation remains extremely volatile. Until we effectively deal with our financial system our efforts may, at best, be misguided and, at worst, damaging.

- After we deal with the financial crisis, we will then have to focus on correcting the weaknesses in the existing regulatory framework.

- I look forward to continuing the examination we began last week at our hearing with the banking regulators.

- Among the other issues that emerged from our hearing, I think it is clear that we need to have a better understanding about the nature and causes of systemic risk.

- With greater knowledge regarding this very difficult problem, we will have a better chance at fashioning the necessary measures to deal with it in the future.

- As I stated last week, it should be our goal to create a durable, flexible and robust regime that can grow with markets while still protecting consumers and market stability.

- This can only be done through a serious and considered effort on the part of the Committee.

- Once more, getting this done right is more important than getting it done quickly.

- Thank you Mr. Chairman.