

May 19, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

As a group of bipartisan former senior officials who served at or worked closely with the Department of Homeland Security, we write enthusiastically in support of the nomination of Kevin McAleenan to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). While politics around immigration remain heated, we can think of no individual better situated to fulfill CBP's array of significant missions than Mr. McAleenan. We urge the Committee on Finance and the full Senate to act on his nomination quickly to provide CBP, and the nation, with the full extent of Mr. McAleenan's expertise and judgment.

Mr. McAleenan has served at CBP for nearly the entire duration of the bureau's existence and has been a major reason why CBP has performed well in its missions to facilitate lawful trade and travel and to disrupt and deter criminal activity at our nation's borders. He was a key advisor in the initial stand-up of CBP after the creation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in 2003, helping forge the 'One Face at the Border' initiative that merged legacy workforces from the INS and the Customs Service at CBP. Later he served as Area Port Director for Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), one of the most complex and demanding field commands in all of CBP. Success at LAX resulted in a promotion to the Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations (OFO), where he oversaw a vast network of 329 ports of entry in the U.S. and over 70 international locations including critical pre-clearance aviation operations. Since 2014, Mr. McAleenan has served as Deputy Commissioner and now Acting Commissioner of CBP, leading the entire organization of over 60,000 employees and a budget now approaching \$14B annually. Over more than a decade of federal service, he has worked effectively for Presidents and DHS Secretaries of both parties and has earned the support of every former Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the department.

Perhaps even more impressive than this steady progression of responsibilities has been Mr. McAleenan's ability to improve both national and economic security simultaneously. He has overseen the introduction of major technology initiatives to make the international travel experience more welcoming and secure such as the launch of the Global Entry trusted traveler program, the deployment of Automated Passport Control and Mobile Passport Control, implementation of the ESTA VWP program, the expansion of preclearance to new locations, and major multilateral and bilateral security agreements with governments around the world. CBP's trade facilitation initiatives similarly have garnered praise from shippers, importers and other stakeholders as our integration in the world economy has deepened year after year. In recent years, he has helped oversee the Border Patrol and CBP's Air & Marine divisions, which provide valuable

defenses against unlawful immigration, drug importation, counterfeit goods, and other threats. Throughout all of this work, Mr. McAleenan has prioritized the counter-terrorism needs of the country while recognizing the importance of working with all stakeholders – foreign partners, industry players, NGO’s, the Congress, and other federal agencies – to make CBP an example of effective government for all U.S. citizens.

CBP’s missions are a complicated and often divisive set of responsibilities, and we recognize that reasonable people may disagree about issues around immigration enforcement, counter-drug activities, and other aspects of CBP’s work. However, we are united in agreement that Kevin McAleenan is a superb choice to lead CBP and urge the Senate to confirm him as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

W. Ross Ashley, III, Former Assistant Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Tom Atkin, Former Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security, Department of Defense

Douglas Baker, Former Special Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Senior Director for Border and Transportation Security, Homeland Security Council

Stewart Baker, Former Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department of Homeland Security

Randy Beardsworth, Former Assistant Secretary for Strategic Planning, Department of Homeland Security

Rand Beers, Former Under Secretary, National Protection and Programs Directorate, Department of Homeland Security

Alan Cohn, Former Assistant Secretary for Strategy, Planning, Analysis & Risk, Department of Homeland Security

Elaine Dezenski, Former Assistant Secretary for Policy Development, Department of Homeland Security

Marc Frey, Former Chief of Staff, Office of Policy Development, Department of Homeland Security

Brian Goebel, Former Counselor and Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Customs and Border Protection

David Heyman, Former Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department of Homeland Security

Adam Isles, Former Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Homeland Security

Donald H. Kent, Jr., Former Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security

Jonathan L. Lee, Former Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Homeland Security

David A. Martin, Former Principal Deputy General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security

Kate Christensen Mills, Former Assistant Director, Office of Congressional Relations, U.S.
Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Michael Mullen, Former Assistant Commissioner for International Affairs and Trade Relations,
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Dr. Tara O'Toole, Former Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of
Homeland Security

John Pistole, Former Administrator, Transportation Security Administration

Amy Pope, Former Deputy Homeland Security Advisor, National Security Council

Leon Rodriguez, Former Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Paul Rosen, Former Chief of Staff, Department of Homeland Security

Paul Rosenzweig, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department of Homeland
Security

Robert Silvers, Former Assistant Secretary for Cyber Policy, Department of Homeland Security

Seth Stodder, Former Assistant Secretary for Border, Immigration & Trade Policy, Department
of Homeland Security

Chad Sweet, Former Chief of Staff, Department of Homeland Security

Frank Taylor, Former Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis and Counterterrorism
Coordinator, Department of Homeland Security

C. Stewart Verdery, Jr., Former Assistant Secretary for Border and Transportation Security
Policy and Planning, Department of Homeland Security

Joe D. Whitley, Former General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security

Julie Myers Wood, Former Assistant Secretary, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Michael Yeager, Former Assistant Commissioner for Congressional Affairs, U.S. Customs and
Border Protection