



United States Senate
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Chairman Joseph I. Lieberman, ID-Conn.

Opening Statement of Chairman Joseph Lieberman
Nomination of Roslyn Mazer
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
November 10, 2011
As Prepared for Delivery

Good afternoon and welcome to the hearing today. The Committee will consider the nomination of Roslyn Mazer to serve as Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, which of course is the focus of this Committee's activities and therefore the nomination is an important one to us.

The DHS Inspector General is responsible for overseeing the more than \$55 billion in annual spending by the Department, and investigating suspected waste, fraud and abuse of those funds. The IG at DHS carries out audits and inspections of Departmental activities that provide important insight into the Department's effectiveness and helps inform our oversight and that of the relevant House committees. The IG is also charged with investigating misconduct among DHS employees, including the significant, unfortunately, and growing problem of drug trafficking organizations attempting to corrupt employees of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agencies.

In nominating Ms. Mazer to be the IG at DHS, I believe that President Obama has selected someone who is up to the challenge and will serve effectively in this role.

Ms. Mazer has had a long and distinguished career, as a lawyer in private practice and at the Department of Justice, including seven years at the DOJ Office of Inspector General, where she led important reviews of the FBI's use of National Security Letters and its compliance with the Attorney General's investigative guidelines. In recognition of her work on the FBI's use of National Security Letters, she received the Department of Justice's Distinguished Service Award and the President's Council on Integrity & Efficiency Award for Excellence. In 2009 former Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair selected her to serve as DNI Inspector General, and she has served in that position for the last two and a half years.

The Committee has very strong letters of support from Ms. Mazer's current and former colleagues, including the Former Department of Justice IG, Mr. Fine, and the current Director of National Intelligence Jim Clapper.

So we look forward to hearing from you today, and learning more about your vision and priorities for the Office of Inspector General at DHS.

Senator Collins.