

**Chairman Peters Opening Statement As Prepared for Delivery**  
**Full Committee Hearing: Nomination of the Honorable David P. Pekoske to be**  
**Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland**  
**Security**  
**July 21, 2022**

Today we are considering the nomination of David Pekoske, to be Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration at the Department of Homeland Security.

Administrator Pekoske, welcome back to the committee, congratulations on your nomination and thank you for your willingness to continue serving in this role.

Over twenty years ago, the Transportation Security Administration was established in response to the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks to carry out the essential mission of ensuring that travelers are safe and secure.

Since its creation, travelers have encountered TSA on a daily basis, most notably during the security screening process at our nation's airports. In fact, TSA currently screens over 2 million travelers every day.

This is a significant undertaking, and it wouldn't be possible without our dedicated, frontline TSA staff who work hard each and every day to ensure our transportation system's safety, but especially throughout a national pandemic.

Administrator Pekoske, I am thankful for your vocal support of the TSA workforce, and I look forward to working with you to ensure frontline TSA officers receive the compensation and benefits they deserve.

As we discussed during last week's hearing, the threat to our homeland security posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems is rapidly growing.

I know TSA has requested explicit authorities to conduct Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems activities to maintain our transportation security, and I support these efforts. I am working on bipartisan legislation to reauthorize and strengthen Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems authorities to better tackle this threat, which I plan to introduce in the coming weeks.

As we work to protect travelers from threats in the sky, we must also focus on their travel experience on the ground.

As Chairman of this Committee, I have long pressed the Department of Homeland Security and its component agencies to address concerns raised by communities, including Michigan's Muslim and Arab American communities, about challenges they face during the travel screening process. Security of our transportation system is critical, but we must also ensure that TSA is upholding the civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy of travelers.

I am pleased that Customs and Border Protection has recently announced a new Senior Community Relations Manager to help address these unique concerns, but I would like to see TSA take more proactive steps to be responsive to the affected communities and address these concerns.

Administrator Pekoske, if confirmed for a second term, you will play a critical role in ensuring our travel screening procedures and standards, specifically the DHS Traveler Redress Inquiry Program, are fair and equitable, easy to navigate, and as transparent as possible.

I look forward to working with you to ensure TSA can proactively protect travelers and our transportation facilities and to hearing more from you about your vision for continuing the TSA's critical mission.