

United States Senate  
COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

January 29, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
300 7<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Secretary Noem:

On January 20, 2025, Acting Secretary Benjamin C. Huffman terminated all current memberships on advisory committees within DHS. This move, however, will undoubtedly negatively impact DHS's strategic priorities, interrupt important national security work, and delay activities required under law. I recognize that every President has the right to their own advisors, however, the immediate termination without well-qualified replacements ready to step in was brash and shortsighted. I urge you to immediately reinstate members of advisory committees or expeditiously appoint qualified individuals to enable their mandated work to continue uninterrupted and prevent significant delays.

DHS's advisory committees are an important resource for the Department and in many cases, these committees are mandated by law. For example, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022 mandated the creation of the Federal School Safety Clearinghouse External Advisory Board. This Board was created to support the Department's school safety work and provide expertise to the Federal School Safety Clearinghouse created by President Trump. Another example, critical to my home state of Michigan, is the Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee (GLPAC) that is required by the Great Lakes Pilotage Act to work with the U.S. Coast Guard on safe navigation practices in the Great Lakes. Congress created and required these committees, amongst others, for a reason. Almost all of these advisory committees have membership qualification requirements and require a fair balance in points of views represented.

Other advisory committees perform important national security work. For example, the Cyber Safety Review Board, or CSRB, as established in Executive Order 14028, *Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity*, plays a significant role in analyzing cyber incidents and providing actionable recommendations to prevent future cyber incidents. The CSRB is comprised of both government and non-government members to bring top cybersecurity minds together. The actions to remove members from the CSRB has significantly impacted the Board's important investigation into the ongoing Salt Typhoon telecommunications hack. In accordance with the CSRB's charter, members should be well-qualified and respected experts and appointed without regard to political affiliation.

Outside of cybersecurity investigations, other advisory committees performing important national security work include the Homeland Security Advisory Council, the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, and the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee, to name a few. Members of these committees conduct research and provide critical recommendations to improve the Department's ability to combat online child exploitation and abuse, protect our borders, provide baseline security standards for cloud service providers, prepare our nation for post-quantum cryptography, and secure our airports, airlines, and



transportation passengers across the nation. These important activities, amongst others, ensure the Department and its components are effective and efficient in their national security missions to face both cyber and physical threats to our homeland.

The wholesale removal of members of the Department's advisory committees only serves to benefit our foreign adversaries, like China, Russia, and Iran. Prior to your confirmation, you and I discussed the priority of combating foreign adversaries, securing our borders, and protecting our nation from cyberattacks, amongst other priorities. You pledged to me that you would work with me in a bipartisan, fact-based manner to counter threats to our homeland. Disbanding members of all advisory committees is counter to our common goal to protect our nation. Now that you are confirmed as Secretary, I urge you to quickly reinstate members of advisory committees or appoint qualified individuals in accordance with established charters and existing law.

It is critical that DHS continues to be at the front of protecting Americans, all Americans, from security and public safety threats. The Department's work should remain non-partisan, transparent, and responsive to congressional oversight and the American people.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter and for your convenience, I have included a list of some active advisory committees and their establishment authority. I look forward to working with you and the Department.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters  
Ranking Member  
Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs Committee



<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Establishment Authority*</b>	<b>Specific Establishment Authority*</b>
Homeland Security Advisory Council	Agency Authority	6 U.S.C. §451 Homeland Security Act
President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee	Presidential	E.O. 12382 as amended by E.O. 13286 as amended by E.O. 14109
U.S. Customs and Border Protection User Fee Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	8 U.S.C. 1356(k)
Expert Panel on Cost Estimating for the Public Assistance Program	Statutory (Congress Created)	Public Law 106-390, Section 205e(3)
U.S. Customs Service COBRA Fees Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	Sec. 2418(d), P.L. 106-36
CISA Cybersecurity Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, P.L. 116-283
Technical Mapping Advisory Council (FEMA)	Statutory (Congress Created)	Section 100215 of Public Law 112-141; 42 USC 4101a
Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	Pub.L. 114-125
Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee	Authorized by Law	6 U.S.C. §451 Homeland Security Act
Board of Visitors for the National Fire Academy	Statutory (Congress Created)	15 United States Code, section 2206(j)
Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	Coast Guard Authorization of 1998 (P.L. 105-383) Section 303,as amended
Faith Based Security Advisory Council	Agency Authority	6 U.S.C. §451 Homeland Security Act
National Towing Safety Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	§ 601 of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-282, 132 Stat. 4192 and is codified in 46 U.S.C. § 15108
National Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	§ 601 of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-282, 132 Stat. 4192 and is codified in 46 U.S.C. § 15104
Federal Emergency Management Agency National Advisory Council	Statutory (Congress Created)	P.L. 109-295 sec 508
National Infrastructure Advisory Council	Presidential	Sec. 9(b), EO 13231, as amended by EO 13286, 13385, 13652, and 14048



National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	§ 601 of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-282, 132 Stat. 4192 as amended by § 8331 of the Elijah E. Cummings of the CG Auth Act of 2020, Pub.L. No. 116-283. That authority is codified in 46 U.S.C. § 15106
National Chemical Transportation Safety Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	§ 601 of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-282, 132 Stat. 4192 and is codified in 46 U.S.C. § 15101
National Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	§ 601 of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (Pub. L. No. 115-282, 132 Stat. 4192 and amended by §8335 of the NDAA of 2021 (Pub. L. No. 116-283, 134 Stat 4706) and codified in 46 U.S.C. § 15102
National Boating Safety Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	§ 601 of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-282, 132 Stat. 4192 and is codified in 46 U.S.C. § 15105
National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	§ 601 of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-282, 132 Stat. 4192 and is codified in 46 U.S.C. § 15103
National Navigation Safety Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	§ 601 of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-282, 132 Stat. 4192 and is codified in 46 U.S.C. § 15107
Data Privacy and Integrity Advisory Committee	Agency Authority	6 U.S.C. §451 Homeland Security Act
Homeland Security Academic Partnership Council	Agency Authority	6 U.S.C. §451 Homeland Security Act
National Maritime Security Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	§ 601 of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-282, 132 Stat. 4190 and is codified in 46 U.S.C. § 70112
Cyber Safety Review Board	Presidential	E.O. 14028
Artificial Intelligence Safety and Security Board	Presidential	E.O 14110



U.S. Secret Service Cyber Investigations Advisory Board (CIAB)	Agency Authority	6 U.S.C. §451 Homeland Security Act
Aviation Security Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	Pub. L. No 113-238 and is codified in 49 U.S.C. 44946
Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC)	Agency Authority	Title 6, United States Code, section 451 Homeland Security Act
Federal School Safety Clearinghouse External Advisory Board	Agency Authority	6 U.S.C. §451 and §665k Homeland Security Act
Homeland Intelligence Advisory Board	Agency Authority	6 U.S.C. §451 Homeland Security Act
Surface Transportation Security Advisory Committee	Statutory (Congress Created)	Pub. L. No. 115-254
Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council (THSAC)	Agency Authority	6 U.S.C. §451 Homeland Security Act
Transatlantic Aviation Industry Roundtable Committee (TAIR)	Agency Authority	6 U.S.C. §451 Homeland Security Act