

**Chairman Peters Opening Statement As Prepared for Delivery**  
**Full Committee Hearing: Annual Threats**  
**November 2, 2023**

Today, we are considering three nominations:

Harry Coker, to serve as the National Cyber Director; Jeff Rezmovic to serve as the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Homeland Security; and Suzanne Summerlin to be General Counsel for the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

Welcome to each of the nominees – and to your friends and family members joining us today. Congratulations, and thank you for your prior public service – as well as your willingness to fill these important positions.

Mr. Coker – If confirmed, you will play a key role in strengthening our nation’s cybersecurity. This Committee worked to establish the Office of the National Cyber Director to develop and coordinate a comprehensive whole-of-government approach to cybersecurity.

Since the Office was formed in 2021, I have been pleased to work with former Director Chris Inglis and Acting Director Kemba Walden on their efforts to stand up the new office and develop the first-ever National Cybersecurity Strategy and first-ever National Cyber Workforce and Education Strategy.

The next National Cyber Director will be instrumental in driving the implementation of these strategies.

The National Cyber Director must be able to foster collaboration and cooperation across government – and with partners in the public and private sectors. Our country faces significant cyber threats – including from foreign agents, cybercriminals, and so-called “hactivist” groups.

In order to protect our economy and critical infrastructure from these evolving threats – we must take a cohesive approach to cybersecurity.

Mr. Coker – I look forward to hearing about your plans to lead the Office of the National Cyber Director and build upon the progress already made by this young agency.

Mr. Rezmovic – If confirmed, you will oversee the budget and financial operations for one of the largest and most complex federal agencies. The Department of Homeland Security – or DHS – has an annual budget of over \$60 billion that supports the work of over 250,000 employees to keep our nation safe.

The CFO for the Department plays a key role in ensuring that DHS is using its resources effectively and responsibly. It is vitally important that the CFO understands the complexities of DHS and its components and is committed to working with Congress in an open and transparent manner.

Mr. Rezmovic – I look forward to hearing more about your background and approach to the CFO role.

Ms. Summerlin – I am very glad that we are considering your nomination to be FLRA General Counsel today. The FLRA has not had a Senate-confirmed General Counsel for nearly seven years – since January 2017. This prolonged vacancy has been detrimental to the agency and its work enforcing federal labor-relations laws.

The FLRA’s General Counsel is responsible for investigating and prosecuting Unfair Labor Practice cases – ensuring both federal employees and agency management are treated fairly and in accordance with federal labor relations laws.

The FLRA General Counsel must be able to impartially evaluate cases and effectively manage a small but dedicated team of attorneys and staff in offices across the country.

Ms. Summerlin – I look forward to hearing more about your experience and plans for this role. Welcome again to all three of you.

The Committee has heard from a wide range of individuals and organizations in support of each of your nominations.

Today’s hearing is an important opportunity for us to hear from you directly about your qualifications and plans for taking on these very challenging roles.