

BUSINESS MEETING

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2019

United States Senate,

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:00 a.m., in Room SD-342, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Ron Johnson, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER PETERS**

Well thank you Mr. Chairman. I certainly appreciate the opportunity to work with you, and I appreciate your willingness to make sure that this is a non-partisan committee as you have mentioned over the years. We have certainly worked very hard to make that the case when you are dealing with issues that can be fraught with a lot of emotion - things that come before the Department of Homeland Security. It's very important for us to be able to step back and think through, and agree on what the facts are and then build on those facts once we have some sort of agreement.

I also look forward to working with everybody on the committee on the issues related to the government affairs, which doesn't seem to get some of the attention that you get when you are dealing with homeland security, but obviously it is very important to make sure the government is working effectively and efficiently.

We have an incredible group of Senators on this Committee that bring a wealth of perspectives to that. Our two members, Senator Rosen, of course is a computer programmer and advanced computers - that's going to be very important to our mission dealing with cybersecurity. Your input is going to be of great help to us as we deliberate that and make that one of our priority issues. Senator Sinema, I certainly had the pleasure of working with you on financial services when I was in the House with you. You are a practical commonsense problem solver and I am very excited you'll be the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management. That's the type of thing where you could really sink your teeth in to make a difference. And I can go around talking about all of it. Everybody here - that's great, and having former governors as well who've been about managing their states as well. But I think we have got to be focused on that.

Mr. Chairman, the fact is that we have to get things done. The American people expect us to find common ground. The American people expect us to actually solve the significant problems that we face. And certainly to you - I know the commitment of all of us to make that happen. Thank you.