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United States Senate

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

CHRISTOPHER R. HIXON, STAFF DIRECTOR
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August 21, 2017

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member

The Honorable Tom Carper
U.S. Senator

The Honorable Jon Tester
U.S. Senator

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
U.S. Senator

The Honorable Gary Peters
U.S. Senator

The Honorable Margaret Wood Hassan
U.S. Senator

The Honorable Kamala Harris
U.S. Senator
Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your letter dated August 17, 2017. I am in complete agreement with your recognition that “we have an obligation to ensure that the federal government is ready and able to combat and defeat terrorism of all types and keep our country safe.”¹ I share your desire to examine ways that we can counter all violent extremists.

Since I became Chairman, this committee has held ten hearings on countering terrorism, both foreign and domestic. Just this June, we held a hearing titled “Ideology and Terror: Understanding the Tools, Tactics, and Techniques of Violent Extremism.” The purpose of the hearing was to examine “the root causes of violent extremism.”²

As you know, when the Senate returns to Washington after the August recess period, our Committee will hold a hearing to examine the most pressing domestic and foreign threats facing the United States. I plan to ask the Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, the Director of the FBI, and the Director of the

¹ Letter from Claire McCaskill, and U.S. Senators Tom Carper, Jon Tester, Heidi Heitkamp, Gary Peters, Margaret Wood Hassan, and Kamala Harris, Members of the S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. & Governmental Affairs, to Ron Johnson, Chairman (Aug. 17, 2017) (on file with Committee staff).

² Letters from Ron Johnson and Claire McCaskill, Chairman and Ranking Member of the S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. & Governmental Affairs, to Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Asra Nomani, John Lenczowski, and Michael Leiter, hearing witnesses (Jun. 7, 2017) (on file with Committee staff).

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National Counterterrorism Center to address the threats we face from white supremacist groups and other domestic violent extremist groups. I believe they are the most appropriate witnesses to address such an important topic.

Thank you again for your letter, and I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ron Johnson
Chairman