

“The Nominations of William N. Bryan to be Under Secretary, Directorate of Science & Technology, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Peter T. Gaynor to be Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security”

**Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson
August 22, 2018**

As prepared for delivery:

Today, the Committee will consider the nominations for two important positions at the Department of Homeland Security, the Deputy Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Under Secretary of the Directorate of Science and Technology.

The Deputy Administrator of FEMA is responsible for assisting the Administrator in leading the agency, which includes advising the President and Secretary of Homeland Security in directing the government’s response to major disasters and terrorist attacks. The Deputy Administrator also supports the Administrator in overseeing FEMA’s various assistance programs, including the National Flood Insurance Program, homeland security grants, and disaster assistance. In all, FEMA’s Deputy Administrator helps oversee approximately 9,700 employees as well as reservists activated to respond to a disaster. FEMA makes up 22 percent of DHS’s overall budget.

The Undersecretary for Science and Technology is responsible for advising the Secretary regarding research and development and leading the Science and Technology Directorate. The Science and Technology Directorate researches and develops tools and products to enhance the work of the Department’s components. The Undersecretary oversees about 485 employees.

President Trump has nominated two well-qualified candidates to serve in these positions. Peter Gaynor currently serves as the Director of Emergency Management for the State of Rhode Island. Prior to this role, Mr. Gaynor headed emergency management for the city of Providence, Rhode Island. Mr. Gaynor is a 26-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.

William “Bill” Bryan currently serves as the acting Under Secretary for the Science and Technology Directorate, a position he has held for more than a year. His lengthy career in public service includes working as a Deputy Assistant Secretary and later a Senior Policy Advisor for the Department of Energy. Mr. Bryan also served for 17 years in the U.S. Army.

I thank both of the nominees and your families for your willingness to serve and for joining us today.