

**Opening Statement of Chairman Thomas R. Carper**  
**Business Meeting**  
**November 20, 2013**

*As prepared for delivery:*

Today we have one very important nominee on the agenda. The President has asked Mr. Johnson to take on the difficult and demanding job of Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Fortunately for our nation, he is a strong leader and well-prepared to face the challenges that will await him.

He has been confirmed by the Senate twice before--once as the Air Force's top lawyer and once as the top lawyer for the entire Department of Defense. For four years, he was a major player in the Defense Department, where he provided key advice and strategic counsel to two Defense Secretaries – Bob Gates and Leon Panetta. This is invaluable experience.

Mr. Johnson's previous public service included serving as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York. Our nominee has also been and currently is a successful lawyer at the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison.

He has received bipartisan support from a number of prominent former government officials, including former DHS Secretaries Tom Ridge, Michael Chertoff and Janet Napolitano, former DoD Secretaries Robert Gates and Leon Panetta, former Attorney General Michael Mukasey, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen, and Frances Townsend, the former Homeland Security Advisor for President George W. Bush. He has also received support from several law enforcement groups.

I appreciate his willingness to serve the people of this country in this new role. I strongly support Mr. Johnson's nomination and call on my colleagues – both Democrat and Republican – to join me in supporting his nomination today.

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