

Opening Statement
Senator Tom Coburn. M.D., Ranking Member
Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
*Nomination Hearing for John Roth to be Inspector General, Department of
Homeland Security*
January 8, 2014

Mr. Roth, welcome to you and your family.

First, thank you for being willing to serve.

Second, I want to recognize the president's confidence and also judgment in nominating you for this position.

A lot of Americans don't understand how important Inspector Generals are for their freedom. You're the eyes and ears for the American people to be sure that the agencies are actually complying with the law. And you come well equipped to fulfill that obligation.

You have the management skills, as well as the confidence of I think both the chairman and I. I've enjoyed our visits and the insight into both your background and your management style. And I certainly look forward to supporting you.

There is a great deal of difficulties, not just within the Inspector General's office, but also across the Department of Homeland Security. And I won't go into the details of those now, but given the troubles at the I.G. office, it's important to say in a public hearing that the vast majority of people who work in that office are stellar federal employees and should not be tainted by any of the things that have gone on or the questions that have been raised over the past several months.

There are a lot of outstanding issues in the Inspector General's Office. In terms of open cases, there are significantly too many, as well as an open case that is precarious and will have a great effect on Mr. Mayorkas, as well as the reputation of the I.G.'s office.

I welcome you to our hearing. I look forward to your statement. And I look forward to supporting you not only in your nomination and vote on the Senate floor, but in supporting you as you go about doing the very important work that you've agreed to take on.

I yield back.