

Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson
Nominations Hearing to Peter Gaynor to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency
Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
November 14, 2019

As prepared for delivery:

Today, the Committee will consider the nomination of Mr. Peter Gaynor who has been nominated by the President to serve in a critical leadership position as the Administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security

The FEMA Administrator serves as the principal advisor to the President, Homeland Security Council, and the Secretary of Homeland Security for all matters related to emergency management. The Administrator's duties include the operation of the National Response Coordination Center; the effective support of all Emergency Support Functions; and, more broadly, coordinating the implementation of a risk-based, all-hazards strategy to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters. The Administrator is also responsible for the management of the core Department of Homeland Security grant programs supporting homeland security, and for providing an annual estimate of the resources needed for developing the capabilities of federal, state, and local governments necessary to respond to catastrophic incidents.

Peter Gaynor, Nominee

In October 2018, the Senate confirmed Mr. Gaynor as the Deputy Administrator of FEMA. Over the past eight months, he has served as the Acting Administrator for FEMA. During this time, Mr. Gaynor has demonstrated exceptional leadership that would greatly benefit the agency, if confirmed. I am pleased that Mr. Gaynor has been nominated to be the next FEMA Administrator.

Mr. Gaynor's extensive experience working in emergency management will be vital as FEMA works towards building a culture of preparedness, readying the nation for catastrophic disasters, and streamlining FEMA's processes. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing to work with Mr. Gaynor on transforming the response and recovery model to one that is locally executed, state managed, and federally-supported given his experience at both the state and federal level. This Committee also looks forward to working with FEMA as the agency continues to implement the Disaster Recovery Reform Act that Congress passed last October.

I also want to thank Mr. Gaynor for his commitment to public service, and in particular, highlight his 26 years of service as an enlisted Marine and Infantry Officer in the United States Marine Corps prior to becoming an emergency manager.