

Ranking Member James Lankford Opening Statement
Hearing before the Senate Homeland Security Committee on
Tuesday, October 20th, 2021, at 10:30 am

Nomination of The Honorable Ernest DuBester to be Member and
Chairman of the Federal Labor Relations Authority;

Nomination of The Honorable Susan Tsui Grundmann to be
Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority;

Nomination of Kurt Rumsfeld to be General Counsel of the Federal
Labor Relations

Good morning and welcome Mr. DuBester, Ms. Grundmann, and Mr. Rumsfeld. The hearing this morning is to consider the nominations of both Mr. DuBester and Ms. Grundmann to be Members of the FLRA. The Authority currently has a quorum which is assured to continue through the end of next year. Also before us today is Mr. Rumsfeld who is nominated to be General Counsel at the FLRA. This is a position that has been vacant since 2017.

The Committee takes these nominations very seriously and I look forward to discussing each of your qualifications. The FLRA administers the Federal labor-management relations program. It is charged with providing leadership in establishing policies and guidance related to Federal sector labor-management relations and with resolving disputes under, and ensuring compliance with, the Federal Service Labor Management Relations Statute. The Authority is designed to be bipartisan and it is vital we keep that balance in the years to come. All three nominees have experience in federal labor relations and have largely dedicated their careers to public service in the Federal government. We thank you for your work.

Committee staff reached out to a variety of these nominees' colleagues and affiliates, who spoke highly of them. Staff also had the opportunity to interview all three nominees on an array of federal labor relations issues. The committee must ensure that the nominees to the Authority are able to render fair judges that are free from preference or bias, and are issued in a timely manner. I look forward to speaking with you a bit more today on your experience and accomplishments and how you intend to bring them to bear in a fair and impartial manner for the FLRA.