

**U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Nomination of David J. Glawe to be Under Secretary for Intelligence &
Analysis at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS); David Pekoske to
be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, Transportation Security
Administration**

June 28, 2017

Ranking Member Claire McCaskill

Opening Statement

Thank you Mr. Chairman, I appreciate you holding this hearing and want to thank the two nominees for their willingness to serve. I am particularly pleased to be here today given the strong qualifications and distinguished careers of the nominees before us. You have both had exemplary public service careers and we need individuals like you leading our Homeland Security and Intelligence agencies.

You both have difficult jobs ahead of you. The offices you seek to lead are essential ones for the protection of our homeland. TSA has the visible role of protecting air travel as well as the less well-known job of securing ground, rail, and maritime security. And the Office of Intelligence and Analysis is a component of the Intelligence Community that informs the work of all DHS agencies and is charged with sharing intelligence with local, state, and tribal governments.

In addition to the challenges you'll face in executing the mission of these organizations, you'll face a serious challenge given the current morale of the workforce in these offices. Both TSA and I&A are seen by their employees as being among the worst places to work in the federal government. According to a survey of federal agencies, I&A is ranked 304 out of 305 federal agency subcomponents in employee morale. TSA is doing only slightly better, ranked 303 out of 305. Strong leadership will be necessary to strengthen the workforce at these offices and ensure that these components are recruiting and retaining the most qualified talent. The culture and sentiment in an office enormously contribute to hiring and keeping the best personnel, who in turn are working hard to keep our nation safe.

Mr. Pekoske, with threats to our transportation systems on the rise, TSA has an essential role in protecting our homeland. I have made clear several times my concerns about the President's proposed cuts to the TSA budget, particularly when it comes to funds for counter-terrorism programs. Once you are confirmed, I expect you to make clear to the administration at the highest levels what you need to do your job. And you should not back down until the administration proposes a budget that works for you.

And Mr. Glawe, I expect you to ensure that the work of your office remains apolitical and informs decisions at the highest levels of the Department and of the intelligence community. This administration should be making policy decisions based on intelligence and facts. And it is your office that has the data and the analytic tools to make sure that the policy decisions are sound.

I look forward to our conversation today, and to working with you in the future. Mr. Pekoske, I understand that you told Committee staff this week that you would come in to sit down with them once you've been on the job for several months. I appreciate that offer and expect my staff will take you up on it. I hope both of you will remain accessible and responsive to this Committee once you are confirmed.