

**Chairman Peters Opening Statement As Prepared for Delivery
Full Committee Hearing: Nominations of Erik A. Hooks to be Deputy Administrator, Federal
Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; the Honorable
Michael Kubayanda to be a Commissioner, Postal Regulatory Commission; Laurel A.
Blatchford to be Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management
and Budget; and Ebony M. Scott and Donald W. Tunnage to be Associate Judges, Superior
Court of the District of Columbia**

November 18, 2021

Today, we are considering five nominations:

Erik Hooks, to be Deputy Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or “FEMA,” Michael Kubayanda, to serve a second term as a Commissioner on the Postal Regulatory Commission, Laurel Blatchford, to be Controller of the Office of Federal Financial Management, within the Office of Management and Budget, and Ebony Scott and Donald Tunnage who are both joining us remotely, to be Associate Judges on the Superior Court for the District of Columbia.

Welcome to each of you and to your friends and family members joining us today. Congratulations on your nominations, and thank you all for your previous service and for your willingness to take on these important new roles.

These are all very different positions, but each is critically important to the federal government and to our nation’s capital.

I am pleased that we are considering highly-qualified nominees for each of these roles, and in particular, for several roles that have been vacant for far too long.

FEMA has been without a Senate-confirmed Deputy Administrator for nearly two years, and OMB has not had a Senate-confirmed Controller in almost five years.

Additionally, the D.C. Superior Court is struggling with high vacancy levels, there are currently 14 Associate Judge vacancies on the court. I am glad we have two nominees to the Superior Court here today, and I hope we will soon see several of these seats filled.

Thank you again for your willingness to serve and for being with us today. I look forward to hearing from each of the nominees.