Sinema Opening Statement
HSGAC Hearing: FLRA Nominations
Wednesday October 20, 2021

Today, we are considering three nominations for the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) – Ernest DuBester and Susan Tsui Grundmann to be Members and Kurt Rumsfeld to be the General Counsel.

I welcome all of you, as well as your family members watching online with us today. Congratulations on your nominations, and thank you for your willingness to take on these critical positions.

The Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) is a small agency with only about 100 employees, but their expertise and role in effective federal labor-management relations is crucial to an efficient federal government. My state of Arizona, as well as the rest of the nation, needs a federal workforce that can get the job done and deliver services to the nation. The FLRA plays a role in that effort.

As a bipartisan board, FLRA's mission is to review the merits of labor-management disputes and set precedents for future negotiations. For years, FLRA has successfully convinced both sides to participate in alternative dispute resolution to avoid the more protracted, litigious methods that hurt overall efficiency.

The three nominees today all have deep expertise in labor management issues and are well-qualified. Importantly, they all share a reputation for working in a bipartisan manner and applying the appropriate federal statutes in a fair manner. The Senate has confirmed two of the nominees previously by voice vote, with Congress hiring one away from the Executive Branch to lead in a bipartisan, bicameral role as the Executive Director of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

All three nominees have decades of experience in federal employee issues and all three also have experience in management, in the private sector, and as federal employees themselves. This provides them the full range of knowledge and skills to perform in their positions, if confirmed. I look forward to hearing more about their plans to lead the agency.