

Opening Statement of Senator Jon Tester
Nominations of Honorable Carol W. Pope, Honorable Ernest W. Dubester, and Patrick Pizzella to be Members, Federal Labor Relations Authority
September 25, 2013

As prepared for delivery:

I call to order this hearing of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

We convene this afternoon's hearing to consider the nominations of CAROL WALLER POPE, ERNEST DUBESTER, and PATRICK PIZZELLA, to serve as Members of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

Carol Waller Pope, Ernest DuBester, and Patrick Pizzella have all filed responses to a biographical and financial questionnaire, answered pre-hearing questions submitted by the Committee, and have had their financial statements reviewed by the Office of Government Ethics. Without objection, this information will be made a part of the hearing record, with the exception of the financial data which are on file and available for public inspection in the committee offices.

Carol Waller Pope has over 30 years of experience at the FLRA and is the first and only FLRA career employee to serve as a Member. Most recently, Ms. Pope served as the FLRA Chairman from 2009 through January of this year. Under her leadership as Chairman, the FLRA eliminated its case backlog, reduced the average age of pending cases by 57%, and vastly improved employee satisfaction and morale.

Ernie DuBester has 35 years of experience in labor-management relations, with nearly 20 years of experience in the federal sector. Mr. DuBester has worked as a public servant, advocate, mediator, arbitrator, and academic. Mr. DuBester currently serves as the Chairman of the FLRA and has been a Member since 2009.

Patrick Pizzella has 21 years of experience working in the Executive Branch and has held positions in management and administration at 6 different agencies, including the Department of Labor, Office of Personnel Management, and the General Services Administration. Most recently, Mr. Pizzella served as the Assistant Secretary of Labor from 2001 through 2009. Additionally, Mr. Pizzella was an original member of the Chief Human Capital Officers, or CHICO, Council.

Thank you, Ms. Pope, Mr. DuBester, and Mr. Pizzella, for joining us today.

Our committee rules require all witnesses at nomination hearings to give their testimony under oath. Would the three nominees please stand and raise their right hands?

Do you swear that the testimony you are about to give to the committee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you, God?

[Nominees: "I do."]

Let the record reflect that the witnesses answered in the affirmative.