

**Opening Statement of Sen. Mark Warner
Introducing Suzanne E. Spaulding
Nominee to be Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
September 18, 2013**

I am honored to be here today to introduce Suzanne Spaulding as the President's nominee for Under Secretary of the National Protection and Programs Directorate at the Department of Homeland Security.

As a friend of Suzanne's for over 30 years, I can personally attest that there are few people who possess the kind of intellect, experience, temperament and passion for the Department's mission as does Suzanne.

I urge this Committee's swift approval of her nomination.

I would also like to acknowledge the public service of Suzanne's mother and father, both of whom served this Nation in the Marines, as did her brother Doug, who is here today.

I have benefited from Suzanne's advice on national security and homeland security matters over the years. Whether through her service on Capitol Hill, at the Central Intelligence Agency, in the private sector, or at DHS, Suzanne has dedicated her career to making this Nation safe and secure.

When I became Governor of Virginia in 2002, I appointed Suzanne to the Secure Commonwealth Panel to advise me and the Commonwealth on safety and security matters.

However, Suzanne's career has been bipartisan. She has worked across the aisle on many occasions. For instance, she served as Legislative Director to Senator Arlen Specter and worked with former Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore in his capacity as chair of a Commission to assess the nation's capabilities for responding to a catastrophic terrorist attack.

Not only does Suzanne have national and homeland security experience and expertise, she also brings unique perspectives from the private sector and understands the critical role State and local governments play in homeland security.

As my experience in business has helped inform the choices I make in government, so too will it help Suzanne as she spearheads DHS's engagement with the private sector on cybersecurity and critical infrastructure protection.

Cyber threats require a unique public-private partnership and there is no one better than Suzanne to forge that relationship. Her years as counsel to many critical infrastructure owners and operators and work with national organizations like the Business Roundtable, gives her incredible insight into the needs and innovation of the private sector.

The myriad threats facing the Nation, particularly in cyberspace, keep us up at night. With talented public servants like Suzanne protecting the Nation, we can rest a little easier.