

**Statement of Ranking Member Tom Carper: Committee Business Meeting
February 10, 2016**

As prepared for delivery:

I'd like to start today's business meeting by thanking Chairman Johnson for bringing us together again today to attempt to move a number of bills to the full Senate. My thanks as well to our colleagues and all of our staffs for the hard work that went into preparing for this mark up.

First, I am proud to support Beth Cobert's nomination to be the Director of Office of Personnel Management. She has a strong record of strong management and she is the right person for this job. OPM needs strong leadership and I urge my colleagues to support her nomination and to move her quickly out of the Senate.

Second, I am proud to sponsor a bill on today's agenda that seeks to create partnerships with communities to prevent the recruitment of Americans by terrorists.

Homegrown terrorism and the radicalization of individuals living here on our shores is a growing threat. This bill would empower the Department of Homeland Security to work with local communities to help prevent radicalization and prevent individuals who might be vulnerable to terrorists' messaging from committing acts of violence. This is an important measure in the battle against ISIS. I thank Chairman Johnson for working with me on this bill.

I am also pleased that we will be considering the Federal Property Management Reform Act of 2016. This is an issue that our friend and former colleague Tom Coburn and I started to examine many years ago on this Committee when we led a subcommittee on federal financial management.

I'm glad that we have finally reached a bipartisan consensus to move two property bills, including one authored by Chairman Johnson that we moved at our last business meeting, that will go a long way in right sizing the federal inventory and better managing the buildings we need.

The bill on the agenda today includes several critical measures to cut costs through increased transparency, better property management, and smarter leasing decisions. I want to thank my cosponsors Senators Johnson, Portman, Heitkamp, Lankford, and King for their work and support on this important issue.

I am also pleased to see a bill on the agenda today to make various management improvements at the Secret Service. I'm supportive of moving forward with this bill today, but I believe we will need to continue to work with our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to make sure we get the language dealing with criminal penalties for flying a drone over the White House just right.

There are many other important bills on this agenda as well. Two bills that are very important but have been taken off the agenda so that we can continue to work on them include the DHS management and acquisition bills.

These bills will help strengthen oversight at DHS headquarters, improve coordination across the Department, and bring greater accountability to the acquisition process. I look forward to working with all my colleagues to further improve these bills.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention my strong desire to move forward on postal reform. As you know, the Postal Service is facing severe financial problems. Over the last year or so, the finances of the postal service have seen some limited relief because of emergency powers that have allowed it to charge higher fees. However, that authority expires in April. When it does, the Postal Service will once again struggle to keep its head above water and service could continue to erode.

I introduced a postal reform bill several months ago. It has widespread support. This committee needs to move quickly on this issue so I hope we will soon mark up my bill to address the Postal Services severe financial problems. I thank my cosponsors, Senators Moran, McCaskill, Blunt, and Collins for working with me on this important issue.

We have a very big agenda here today. Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work.