

Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson
Nomination Hearing to Consider The Honorable Dale Cabaniss to be Director, Office of
Personnel Management and Michael E. Wooten to be Administrator, Office of Federal
Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget
May 7, 2019

Today the Committee will consider two nominations: the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and the Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy in the Office of Management and Budget.

The Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is the human resources and personnel policy manager for the federal government and is responsible for issuing government-wide policies and guidance for recruiting, hiring, developing, and retaining individuals for federal employment. The Director will play a critical role in proposed reorganization of OPM, which is already underway with the President's Executive Order to transfer of the National Background Investigations Bureau to the Department of Defense. In addition to reorganization, OPM faces many challenges in fulfilling its core mission as the human capital manager of the federal workforce. The Civil Service Reform Act has governed the federal workforce for 40 years, and there are concerns about whether the personnel systems established to protect merit-based employment are adapting to today's workforce needs, especially in crucial fields like information technology and cybersecurity.

The Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) is one of four key policy offices within the Office of Management and Budget. The Administrator of OFPP is responsible for coordinating all government-wide policies and procedures related to the procurement of goods and services by Federal agencies. Total contract spending by the federal government in 2018 totaled \$560 billion. Any effort to streamline the immensely complex acquisition process has the potential to save taxpayers millions, if not billions of dollars.

Ms. Dale Cabaniss was nominated by the President to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management. Ms. Cabaniss has dedicated most of her 30-year career to federal workforce issues in both the executive and legislative branches. Ms. Cabaniss' first Senate-confirmed appointment was in 1997 to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority. President George W. Bush appointed and the Senate later confirmed Ms. Cabaniss to be the Chairman of the Authority, a position she held until 2008. Ms. Cabaniss worked in various offices of the U.S. Senate throughout her career, including the Senate Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government and at the Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education. She also worked for Senator Ted Stevens on the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, and prior to that for Senator Frank Murkowski. Ms. Cabaniss earned a law degree from the Catholic University of America, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Georgia.

We will also consider the nomination of Mr. Michael Wooten to be Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy. Following a 20-year career in the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Wooten continued his public service at the Defense Acquisition University, the District of Columbia government, and most recently the Department of Education.

I'd like to thank the nominees for agreeing to serve in these important positions, and I look forward to hearing their testimony.