

U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
Nomination Hearing for Margaret M. Weichert to be Deputy Director for
Management, Office of Management and Budget

December 14, 2017

Senator Gary C. Peters, Acting as Ranking Member

Opening Statement

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Ms. Weichert, for being here today and for your willingness to serve in this important role at OMB. In reviewing your qualifications, I noticed your particular expertise and interest in payments technology and modernization. That is something I have been working on here in the Senate, and I hope it can be something we can work on together in the future if you are confirmed.

As we consider your nomination, I want to acknowledge the widespread agreement in this room today that we should always be finding ways to work together to make government more efficient and effective for the American people. This Committee has a record of bipartisan accomplishment in holding government officials accountable, protecting whistleblowers, empowering the Inspector General community, cutting unnecessary red tape, and conducting diligent oversight to root out instances of waste, fraud, and abuse.

That is what I am looking out for as the Ranking Member of the Federal Spending Oversight subcommittee, and I know the Deputy Director for Management position at OMB plays an important role in this effort as well.

We need to make sure we empower federal agencies with the resources, talent, and expertise they need to carry out their critical missions, instead of undermining them or making blunt policy choices, while also looking out for opportunities to reduce inefficiencies, streamline government operations, and avoid duplications of effort.

Ms. Weichert, I hope you share these goals. I look forward to hearing more about your management agenda and your specific plans for improving the federal

government's procurement policies, information technology systems, and financial and personnel management practices.

We should approach these issues remembering that we have been entrusted as stewards of taxpayer dollars and that we should work together so that government works for everyone. Thank you, and I look forward to your testimony.