

**Chairman Peters Opening Statement As Prepared for Delivery**  
**Full Committee Hearing: Nominations of Cathy A. Harris to be a Member and Chair, and**  
**Tristan L. Leavitt and Raymond A. Limon to be Members, Merit Systems Protection**  
**Board**  
**September 22, 2021**

Today we are considering three nominations to the Merit Systems Protection Board, or “MSPB” Cathy Harris to be a Member and Board Chair, Raymond Limon to be a Member and Vice Chair, and Tristan Leavitt to be a Member.

Welcome to each of the nominees and to your family members who are joining us today. Thank you all for your previous public service, and your willingness to serve in these new and important roles.

The Merit Systems Protection Board is an independent agency that is critical to ensuring an effective and accountable federal government.

The MSPB protects the merit system principles and promotes a highly qualified, diverse federal workforce that is fairly and effectively managed and that provides excellent service to the American people.

The bipartisan three-member board adjudicates cases involving whistleblower retaliation and violations of civil service laws.

The Board also promotes an effective federal workforce through oversight of the Office of Personnel Management and the civil service.

Prolonged vacancies on the Board slow the administration of justice, and for years, vacancies on the MSPB have prevented federal employees from obtaining relief from prohibited personnel practices.

If the three nominees before us today are confirmed, the MSPB will have a quorum for the first time in nearly five years, a crucial step towards preserving the rights of federal employees and protecting whistleblowers from retaliation.

I am very pleased that we are moving one step closer to a fully functioning Merit Systems Protection Board, and I look forward to hearing from each of the nominees.