

**Chairman Peters Opening Statement As Prepared for Delivery
Full Committee Hearing: Nominations of Krista Boyd to be Inspector General, Office of
Personnel Management, and the Honorable Dana K. Bilyeu, Leona M. Bridges, Michael F.
Gerber, Stacie Olivares, and Javier E. Saade to be Members, Federal Retirement Thrift
Investment Board**

March 10, 2022

Today we are considering the nominations of Dana Bilyeu, Leona Bridges, Michael Gerber, Stacie Olivares, and Javier Saade to be members of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board; and Krista Boyd to be Inspector General at the Office of Personnel Management, or OPM.

Welcome to each of you and your family members and thank you for joining us today. Congratulations on your nominations, and thank you all for your willingness to take on these important roles.

Both the Office of Personnel Management and the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board provide critical services to public servants across the federal government, and they need independent, non-partisan leadership to ensure government is working in the best interest of the American people.

OPM functions as the bedrock of our nation's personnel and management efforts in the federal government – and the OPM Inspector General is critical for the agency's success, serving in the chief oversight role.

Ms. Boyd, if confirmed, you will be OPM's independent watchdog, charged with combatting waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government.

To be successful, you must exercise appropriate judgement and independence. You must follow the facts wherever they may lead, and you must not allow political pressure to interfere with your work.

Likewise, the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, requires experienced, independent leadership to carry out its essential duties, without political interference.

If confirmed to the board, each of you will serve as trusted fiduciaries responsible for protecting and administering the retirement savings of our nation's federal employees and servicemembers, who will rely on their Thrift Savings Plans following their careers in public service.

In your respective roles, you will serve millions of dedicated, hardworking Americans, who have devoted their lives to public service and deserve to retire with dignity and financial security.

Today, we are one step closer to a fulfilling that commitment. Congress must ensure these vital roles are filled with leadership who can exercise the appropriate judgment and independence to carry out this critical mission.

While all of these roles are all challenging under any circumstances, it is essential we have a federal government that works efficiently and effectively, as we work to continue recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, and meet our countries greatest needs.

Today, I look forward to hearing more about the experience and qualifications of each of our nominees.