

Business Meeting Statement
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
Chairman Joe Lieberman
March 16, 2010

Today our committee will consider the nominations of Heather Higginbottom to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget and Carolyn Lerner to be Special Counsel. I want to thank my colleagues for arranging their schedules in order to be here this morning. I know many of you have full schedules today, so I will get right to business.

The first item on the agenda is the nomination of Heather Higginbottom to be Deputy Director of OMB. If confirmed, Ms. Higginbottom will have one of the nation's more challenging jobs at this moment in our governance and economic history and I believe she is well qualified for the position. She has served as Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the Domestic Policy Council. Prior to joining the Administration, she spent several years working for Senator Kerry, including several years as his Legislative Director. The Committee has completed its review of Ms. Higginbottom, and I recommend that we report her to the full Senate.

The second item on our agenda is the nomination of Carolyn Lerner to be Special Counsel and lead the Office of Special Counsel. I would like to thank Senator Akaka for chairing the nomination hearing for Ms. Lerner last Thursday and I also want to thank and congratulate Senator Johnson for being the Ranking Member at that hearing, his first confirmation hearing. With almost twenty years of experience in labor and employment law, Ms. Lerner is well qualified to take on the challenge of Special Counsel. I support the nominee and hope that my colleagues on the Committee do the same.

Senator Collins, would you like to make any remarks on the nomination?