

U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Opening Statement

For the Nomination of Susan Tsui Grundmann to be a Member

Federal Labor Relations Authority

It my honor and privilege to be here with you today. I thank you and your staff for the time you have taken in reviewing my qualifications for this position. I also thank the staff at the FLRA for their administrative support and patience during this process. And I humbly thank President Biden for nominating me to serve in the capacity as Member of the FLRA.

I am the first generation born in this country. My parents are both from China and they gave me my center. At my center is my family. My mother is still very much with me today, and hopefully taking this in virtually. My husband of almost 30 years, Karl, continues to inspire me daily to be a better lawyer and kinder human being. Our daughter Milla always keeps me humble.

Looking back from where I started, I have come full circle. I began my career in the federal labor movement and my representation of employees, including air traffic controllers at the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, and later employees throughout the executive branch at the National Federation of Federal Employees. After representing unions, I became a third party neutral as Member and Chairman of the MSPB and found myself sitting at the head of the table of a federal agency with a union of its own. Today, as executive director to a non-partisan legislative branch office, I work for you and administer the labor management program for congressional employees, which is a parallel program to the FLRA. Along the way, I built coalitions of various interests, forged ties with both labor and management, and found friendships across the aisle. Through it all, I have had the opportunity to experience labor-management relations from all perspectives and to appreciate the complexity and richness that is inherent in this community. If confirmed, I hope to bring this diverse viewpoint to the FLRA.