

Statement of Chad F. Wolf

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

June 12, 2019

Good afternoon, Chairman Johnson, Ranking Members Peters, and distinguished Members of the Committee. It is an honor to appear before you as the President's nominee to be the first Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). I am grateful to the President, former Secretary Nielsen, and Acting Secretary McAleenan for the trust and confidence they have placed in me.

Over the past two and half years, my family has made tremendous sacrifices so that I may serve at DHS. I would like to take this time to recognize them for their ongoing support, patience, and love as I continue my journey at the Department.

Please allow me to introduce my wife of 15 years, Hope, who is my rock and without her support I would not be before you. I would also like to introduce my two sons, Tucker and Preston, who have expressed equal excitement for coming to Capitol Hill and for not attending school today. Finally, my parents, Jim and Cinda, who were unable to travel to D.C., but I know both are proudly watching today's proceedings in real time. They instilled in me a sense of service and commitment and have been tremendously supportive of my desire to pursue public service.

I would also like to thank the Members of this Committee and their staffs for the important work you do every day. While I had the privilege to meet with several of you during this process, if confirmed, I look forward to the opportunity of working closely together to advance the mission of the Department.

For me, the call to service began on 9/11 when I evacuated from the Russell Senate Office Building among hundreds of colleagues. At the time, I had no idea the events of that morning would forever shape my future. I was extremely fortunate to join the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) during its inception and its subsequent integration into DHS. During my last year of service with TSA, it was my privilege to lead the agency's policy shop – working with a dedicated staff and determined stakeholders to develop national policies, standards, and regulations governing aircraft, airport, and cargo security. Together, we made America's skies more secure.

During my time in the private sector, I assisted a number of companies by helping them understand and navigate the homeland and national security sectors. Working on public policy issues from outside the government gave me a deeper appreciation for the role of the private sector and the robust partnerships necessary to secure our homeland.

In 2017, I was fortunate to receive the opportunity to again serve with the great men and women of DHS. Over the last two and half years, I have held a number of positions, including TSA's Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief, and Chief of Staff for the Department. Through these positions, I have had a front-row seat in understanding how the Department operates, the challenges it faces, and the need for a strong and dynamic policy process that informs leadership decision making. I have also had the opportunity to develop strong working relationships with senior leadership throughout the DHS enterprise, as well as our many stakeholders within and outside of government. If confirmed, I look forward to tackling the myriad of issues facing the Department and the country with these partnerships in mind.

Most recently, I serve as the Assistant Secretary of Strategy, Plans, Analysis, and Risk and the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Strategy, Policy, and Plans (PLCY). These positions have enabled me to focus on challenges facing the Department today as well as the longer-term vision for the Department and the issues on our strategic horizon. Today, our nation faces persistent threats and a dynamic threat environment that requires a whole-of-DHS approach. The talented and dedicated staff within PLCY have an essential role in this mission, and I look forward to our continued work to safeguard the nation.

If confirmed, I commit to addressing the Department's challenges with diligence, transparency, and hard work – as I have throughout my career.

Serving alongside the 240,000 dedicated public servants that make up DHS has been the honor of my lifetime and, if confirmed, I look forward to continuing our progress of securing the homeland.

Thank you again for your consideration, and I look forward to answering your questions today.