

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Hearing on the “Nomination of Katherine Archuleta to be Director, Office of Personnel
Management”
Statement as Prepared for Delivery
July 16, 2013

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to introduce my fellow Coloradan Katherine Archuleta to the committee this afternoon as it considers her nomination to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management. Katherine has an impressive range of accomplishments that make her very well-qualified to be the Director of OPM. And I am confident she will do a tremendous job leading this agency.

The Office of Personnel Management performs critical functions affecting the entire federal workforce, which in turn directly impacts the quality of work at executive branch departments and agencies.

I know all of us want federal agencies to work more efficiently to provide the greatest value to the American taxpayer. Having a talented and motivated workforce is key to this effort. That’s why we need a leader like Katherine at the helm.

OPM’s responsibilities range from employee recruitment and retention, managing pension benefits and conducting hundreds of thousands of investigations and security clearances for current and future federal employees.

We need someone managing these responsibilities who is sharp, hard-working and dedicated to the goal of making government work as effectively and efficiently as possible. Katherine embodies all of these attributes.

I have known Katherine for many years and have tremendous respect for her. As demonstrated by her impressive resume, she has dedicated her life to public service, working to give back to her community, to her state and to her country.

Katherine spent the early part of her career in public service working for Denver Public Schools. She continued serving the people of Denver at City Hall in two separate administrations – first with Mayor Pena and over a decade later she came back as a senior advisor to then-Mayor John Hickenlooper.

Katherine has extensive experience in D.C. as well – having served as Chief of Staff to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Peña and recently to U.S. Secretary of Labor Solis.

Finally, interspersed throughout a career in government she has consulted with charities, non-profits, cities, regional governments and businesses to help them pursue community development, workplace diversity and crisis management strategies.

The common thread throughout Katherine's career is her ability to work with individuals and organizations, identify priorities and then – notably – to create the conditions for successful implementation of those priorities. That is what we need at the helm of OPM. It's what Americans expect and demand.

Throughout her career Katherine has demonstrated her ability to lead, to motivate and to work constructively with a diverse range of people and personalities. A true Westerner, Katherine's personal integrity, strong sense of right and wrong, and the obvious pride that she takes in her work make her a top-notch choice to lead our federal workforce.

Once again, I am honored to have the privilege to introduce Ms. Archuleta to this Committee. Katherine is eminently qualified for the role the President has nominated her for, I fully endorse her nomination and I hope the Committee will swiftly act quickly to send her nomination to the full Senate.

Thank you.