

**U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Confirmation Hearing  
Statement for the Record  
Submitted by  
Anne M. Wagner, Nominee to be  
A Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board  
With the Designation of Vice Chairman**

**October 20, 2009**

Good afternoon, Chairman Akaka, Senator Voinovich, and members of the Committee. It is an honor to have been nominated by President Obama to serve as a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board with the designation of Vice Chairman and a privilege to appear before you today to seek Senate confirmation of my nomination. I wholeheartedly support the statutory mission of the Board to protect Federal merit systems and the rights of individuals within those systems and, if confirmed, will commit myself fully to carrying out that mission.

In enacting the Civil Service Reform Act in 1978, Congress created a comprehensive system governing federal employment. The MSPB has a central role in that system to provide impartial adjudication of claims arising from personnel actions and to ensure that federal agencies make employment decisions in accordance with law and merit principles. The Board must carry out its quasi-judicial function in a fair and neutral manner, and it must provide meaningful redress when violations occur.

Having practiced federal employment law in various capacities for over twenty years I am particularly mindful of the continued importance of the MSPB to the communities that it serves as well as to the American public. Although much has changed since the Board's inception in 1978, the need to ensure that the federal workplace operates in an equitable and effective manner has not. Congress bestowed this duty on the MSPB and I am humbled by the opportunity to serve as a Member of such a vital organization.

If confirmed, I very much look forward to working with Susan Grundmann, whose nomination as Board Chairman is also before you today, and with Board Member Mary Rose in meeting the challenges facing the Board. Thank you for the opportunity to be with you today and I am happy to answer any questions that you or other members of the Committee may have.