

U.S. Senator Roger Marshall

Opening Statement:

Thank you, Chairman **Blumenthal**.

Today, as Chairman Blumenthal just mentioned, the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on three nominations. I am honored to welcome Colleen Kiko (KEE-ko), Anne Wagner, and David Huitema (HOYT-ma).

Firstly, I want to thank the three of you for your intention to serve our great country as public servants. While preparing for this hearing, I was struck by how many of you drew inspiration to enter public service from those close to you.

Like yourselves, I was surrounded by individuals who dedicated their lives to serving their fellow Americans, and no one made a bigger impact on me personally than my father, who served as chief of police in my hometown of El Dorado, Kansas for 30 years. He instilled in me the values separating right from wrong and to be completely transparent with those he served. I have done my best to learn from his example, as you have done with your role models.

Combined with the lessons you have learned from those individuals, you have also added the experiences of your professional careers. Together, these have prepared you, Ms. Kiko (KEE-ko) and Ms. Wagner, for positions with the Federal Labor Relations Authority, and you, Mr. Huitema (HOYT-ma), as Director of the Office of Government Ethics.

Ms. Kiko (KEE-ko) and Ms. Wagner, should you be confirmed to these positions with the advice and consent of the United States Senate, you will be charged with:

- resolving complaints of unfair labor practices
- determining the appropriateness of units for labor organization representation
- adjudicating exceptions to arbitrators' awards
- adjudicating legal issues relating to the duty to bargain
- and resolving impasses during negotiations.

Both of you have the track records to fulfill these duties. You, Ms. Kiko (KEE-ko), have already served a term as the FLRA Chairwoman, and you, Ms. Wagner, have a long career in this field, with your most recent work being as the Associate Special Counsel with the Office of Special Counsel. I look forward to hearing both of your testimonies and asking you further questions to determine your suitability for these roles.

And, finally, Mr. Huitema. Should you be confirmed as the Director of the Office of Government Ethics you must be able to:

- lead and oversee the executive branch ethics program by making and interpreting ethics laws and regulations
- support and train executive branch ethics officials
- administer the executive branch financial disclosure systems
- monitor senior leaders' compliance with ethics commitments
- ensure agencies comply with ethics program requirements
- and make ethics information available to the public.

Like Ms. Kiko (KEE-ko) and Ms. Wagner, your resume speaks for itself, as you have a long history with the State Department and currently manage the Department's ethics program. Thank you for being here, and I look forward to hearing your testimony and asking you questions.

Once again, I would like to thank all of the nominees for their desire and willingness to serve. I look forward to learning more about your qualifications and hearing your testimonies.

Thank you.