

**Ranking Member Peters Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery  
Full Committee Hearing: Nomination of the Honorable Troy Edgar to be Deputy  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Honorable Dan Bishop to be  
Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget  
February 25, 2025**

Thank you for being here today Mr. Edgar and Congressman Bishop.

The Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Management and Budget – where you have each been nominated for key leadership positions – play a critical role in strengthening our national security and ensuring the federal government is operating effectively, efficiently, and in accordance with the law.

Mr. Edgar, as the Committee considers your nomination, there are several questions about recent actions the Administration has taken with respect to the Department of Homeland Security, where you are already serving as a senior advisor to the Secretary.

I'm concerned by the troubling reports of key DHS personnel getting fired indiscriminately, including staff at FEMA, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the Coast Guard.

I want to know more about the individuals who've been terminated, those who have been placed on administrative leave, and the reasons behind the Department's actions. I want to know what impact these terminations will have on DHS's ability to execute its vital national security missions, including disaster response and efforts to prevent cyberattacks.

I am also alarmed that Elon Musk and DOGE personnel have been granted access to potentially sensitive DHS data, which could violate cybersecurity and privacy laws.

DHS holds some of the most sensitive data about Americans and American companies of any government agency, including their biometric information and private companies' proprietary data.

Congress, and the American people need to know what data was accessed, how the data will be used, and why. We need to know what kind of legal and security analysis was conducted before sharing this potentially sensitive information. We also need to know that this data was properly managed and is not at risk of being stolen by our adversaries.

Mr. Edgar, I hope that you will address these concerns and demonstrate how you will work with Congress, the Secretary, and Administration to rectify these issues, if confirmed.

Today we're also considering the nomination of Dan Bishop to serve as the Deputy Director at the Office of Management and Budget.

The Office of Management and Budget, or OMB, is a critical office in the Executive Office of the President with significant responsibilities ranging from developing and executing the federal budget to improving agency performance and reviewing regulations.

This role not only requires expertise in budgetary processes, fiscal policy, and government management, but a fundamental understanding and appreciation for the Constitution and the law, including spending laws passed by Congress on a bipartisan basis.

Congressman Bishop, given your record and your views on allowing OMB to withhold federal funds – I have serious concerns about your ability to carry out this important role.

As we saw recently with the funding freeze ordered by President Trump, communities are counting on the funds appropriated by Congress to upgrade their roads and bridges, pay their first responders, and provide a host of other services. We need leaders at OMB who are committed to following the laws on the books, which includes the Impoundment Control Act.

I'm concerned that if confirmed, you will not carry out the laws that Congress passes when it comes to funding our communities – and that is unacceptable.

I also have serious questions about your positions on our federal workforce. As I have said before, our nonpartisan civil service employees play vital roles in protecting our national security, caring for our veterans, and ensuring the safety of our transportation systems.

Your record and views, including support for legislation that would make all federal employees "at-will," give me serious pause about how you would manage the federal workforce.

Finally, I have questions about your record of disregard for independent oversight, including retaliatory actions by revealing the name of a whistleblower.

I appreciate you being here with us today to answer these and other questions about how you intend to manage the operations and budget of the federal government if confirmed to this role.