

October 26, 2017

**Opening Statement of Senator Heidi Heitkamp
Ranking Member, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management**

**“Improving Oversight of the Regulatory Process: Lessons from State
Legislatures”**

Thank you, Chairman Lankford. First, I would like to recognize Representative Joshua Boschee, from my home state of North Dakota. I have known Josh for quite some time, and while he is a tremendous legislator and representative of the citizens of District 44, he is an even better person. He is someone who doesn't just talk about how to make things better; he rolls up his sleeves and gets to work. I am so glad that you could be here today to talk about how North Dakota does things.

Over the three years we have been leading this committee, we have spent a lot of time examining the regulatory process - from the basic framework of the rulemaking process, to the doctrines of the courts, to the nitty gritty of how decisions are made at the agency level. From these examinations, legislation has flowed to try to adopt different ideas that have been discussed in those hearings.

What we have not done enough of is look beyond the process of Washington. This hearing is a great way to learn about the activities of our partners in governance, the States. To hear about how they have tackled these questions. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses.