

**Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson
Business Meeting, June 13, 2018**

As prepared for delivery:

Good morning. Today we have an opportunity to do something we rarely do around here – proactively address an emerging threat before we’re faced with an attack on our homeland. As we heard at Committee meetings last week, extremists and criminals both home and abroad continue to develop drone technology to use for malign purposes, yet we are so behind the curve that we have not provided our federal law enforcement with any tools to combat the threat.

The Preventing Emerging Threats Act of 2018 is a bipartisan bill that I introduced with our Ranking Member and others that would give the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice the tools they need to address threats posed by criminals or terrorists using drones. The bill does so while still striking the appropriate balance between protecting the public from safety risks and protecting recreational drone use, and by providing careful limits on when, where, and how the agencies can carry out the authorities.

Today we will also consider a bill that the Ranking Member and I introduced, the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018. Last year, the United States suffered one of the worst hurricane seasons on record. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, along with other federal agencies and state and local partners, worked tirelessly to save lives and help communities respond to the disasters. The bipartisan bill will better prepare the nation for disasters, including by allowing FEMA to supplement its workforce with temporary personnel, supporting building code modernization, and funding pre-disaster mitigation projects around the United States. Importantly, the bill takes an important step toward reforming the way the nation declares disasters, allowing FEMA to focus limited federal resources on the most serious emergencies.

I want to commend my colleagues and their staff for working in a bipartisan manner to provide DHS with the tools and authorities it needs to protect the homeland. I look forward to working with you in the coming weeks to get both of these major pieces of legislation to the President’s desk.