



# Homeland Security

September 8, 2020

The Honorable Bennie Thompson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of August 25, 2020 inviting Acting Secretary Wolf to testify on Thursday, September 17, 2020, before the House Committee on Homeland Security (Committee). The Acting Secretary has asked that I respond on his behalf.

This week, the President will formally nominate Mr. Wolf to be the Secretary of Homeland Security. Due to the Acting Secretary's pending nomination, his appearance before the Committee would be inappropriate, at this time. It is standard practice for nominated officials not to testify in their acting roles in front of a congressional committee before they have been confirmed.

Consequently, and with the greatest respect, the Acting Secretary currently is unable to accommodate your request to testify before the Committee on September 17, 2020. That said, the Department of Homeland Security respectfully submits that the Senior Official Performing the Duties of Deputy Secretary (SOPDDS), Mr. Kenneth T. Cuccinelli II, would be willing to testify in the Acting Secretary's stead. Should the presence of SOPDDS Cuccinelli before the Committee in Acting Secretary Wolf's stead not meet your needs, we can collaborate to find a later date for the Acting Secretary to make himself available to the Committee after his confirmation vote in the Senate.

Let me reiterate that the Acting Secretary looks forward to testifying before the Committee at the appropriate time. It is important to note that, Acting Secretary Wolf offered to testify before the Committee in July on Worldwide Threats to the Homeland and in August on Civil Unrest. Unfortunately, the Committee was unable to schedule those hearings.

We have also informed the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee of this practice. As such, SOPDDS Cuccinelli is now scheduled to testify on Worldwide Threats to the Homeland in late September.

Acting Secretary Wolf remains steadfast in responding to the needs of Congress. Indeed, the Department remains committed to the inter-branch accommodation process. I look forward to collaborating with you to determine a mutually-agreeable solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth Spivey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Beth Spivey  
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs