



**One Hundred Seventeenth Congress  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515**

February 3, 2021

The Hon. Alejandro N. Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

Congratulations on being sworn in as Secretary of Homeland Security.

Your tenure comes at a critical time for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which has been without confirmed leadership for nearly two years and has a critical role in responding to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, evolving threats in cyberspace, and rising incidents of domestic terrorism among other challenges. Your background and experience at DHS in immigration, counterterrorism, and cybersecurity will be integral to ensuring the Department carries out its mission while upholding our American values.

I was pleased to see you commit to integrity, transparency, and accountability in your message to Department employees yesterday. The previous Administration refused to comply with regular Congressional oversight; I welcome engaging with Department under your leadership as the Committee on Homeland Security carries out its Constitutional oversight responsibilities. To that end, I invite you to testify before the Committee in the coming weeks to discuss pressing issues before the Department, including COVID-19 vaccine distribution, the recent SolarWinds breach, immigration, and the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. The Committee also wants to understand the Department's plan for ensuring DHS frontline employees have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Additionally, I look forward to the Department fulfilling the Committee's many inquiries and document requests outstanding from the prior Administration.

Finally, I look forward to working with you as the Committee seeks to move legislation to reauthorize and reform DHS to ensure it is well positioned to carry out all its missions, support its 240,000 dedicated employees, and improve diversity at all levels of its workforce. Doing so is not only necessary for the future of the Department, but the security of our Nation.

Again, congratulations on your confirmation and best wishes as you take on this important role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman