



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

August 26, 2020

The Honorable Henry Kerner  
Special Counsel  
Office of Special Counsel  
1730 M Street, NW  
Washington D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Kerner:

I write today to urge the Office of Special Counsel to investigate whether The Honorable Chad Wolf of the Department of Homeland Security used an official government position for the purpose of affecting the outcome of an election in violation of the Hatch Act.

On August 25, 2020, Mr. Wolf performed a naturalization ceremony on government property to be aired at the Republican National Convention for the apparent purpose of advancing the President's reelection. During the ceremony in the Great Hall of the White House, the President introduced Mr. Wolf as the Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Wolf administered the Oath of Citizenship to five individuals and stated that he was making his remarks on behalf of the men and women of the Department.

This is an unprecedented politicization of the naturalization ceremony – an official function of the Department of Homeland Security.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Wolf's participation appears to constitute engaging in political activity while acting in an official capacity. It also sets a bad example for the Department's 240,000 employees who are required to comply with the Hatch Act. Accordingly, I urge you to investigate Mr. Wolf's participation in this event to determine whether it violated the law.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson".

BENNIE G. THOMPSON  
Chairman

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<sup>1</sup> Michael D. Shear, *Naturalization Ceremony at R.N.C. Stands at Odds With Trump's Stance on Immigration*, THE NEW YORK TIMES (Aug. 25, 2020).