



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

October 12, 2017

Chairman Ron Johnson
Committee on Homeland Security
& Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson:

I write to express my very serious concern about President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Kirstjen Nielsen for Secretary of Homeland Security and to urge you to scrutinize her professional background and experience thoroughly during the confirmation process.

While I am pleased the President has finally named a nominee for this critical national security position, I am greatly troubled by Ms. Nielsen's record as Senior Director for Preparedness and Response at the White House Homeland Security Council during the Bush Administration's botched response to Hurricane Katrina. Given the ongoing tragedy in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, along with other homeland security challenges facing our Nation, the Department of Homeland Security must have a proven, capable leader as Secretary. Unfortunately, Ms. Nielsen's record raises questions about her suitability for such a position.

Again, I urge you to ensure that the new Secretary is someone well-suited to ensuring the Department of Homeland Security carries out its vital mission on behalf of the American people. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

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

BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Ranking Member

cc: Ranking Member Claire McCaskill