



November 1, 2017

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-4905

The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-2505

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member McCaskill:

On behalf of the more than 1,600 member companies and nearly 80,000 individual members that comprise the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), and the 400 corporate members that comprise the Professional Services Council (PSC), we would like to express our support for the nomination of Kirstjen Nielsen to be Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). We are pleased the President has nominated such a highly qualified candidate with such a wealth of policy and leadership experience in the Department and subject matter expertise in cybersecurity.

Ms. Nielsen's experience across the executive and legislative branches of government, in the private sector, and at the White House have provided her with the requisite understanding of challenges facing DHS from a variety of stakeholder perspectives. Her capabilities and experience will foster strong government-industry collaboration and enable her to address the significant challenges that DHS faces.

The members of our associations play crucial roles in homeland security, both as a component of our nation's critical infrastructure and as providers of goods and services supporting DHS's missions. Critically, given the emergence and evolution of cybersecurity threats and challenges over the last decade, we acknowledge Ms. Nielsen's well-known expertise in cybersecurity and consider her nomination a strong commitment from the Administration to continuing to improve the resiliency of private and federal cyber infrastructure.

For these reasons, we encourage your Committee to move expeditiously to consider and approve Ms. Nielsen's nomination and for the Senate to confirm her without delay.

Sincerely,

Herbert J. "Hawk" Carlisle  
General, USAF (Ret.)  
President & CEO  
National Defense Industrial Association

David J. Berteau  
President & CEO  
Professional Services Council