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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer:

I write in support of the nomination of Kevin McAleenan to the position of Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and respectfully request floor consideration of his nomination as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Mr. McAleenan is extremely qualified for the position. He became Acting Commissioner of CBP in January 2017 and previously served at the agency in a variety of key Senior Executive Service roles since 2006. In his preceding role as Deputy Commissioner, Mr. McAleenan served as the Chief Operating Officer overseeing CBP's \$13 billion budget and 60,000 employees. Mr. McAleenan was recognized with a 2015 Presidential Rank Award, the nation's highest civil service honor. In other roles at CBP, he led agency field operations to secure the U.S. border while expediting lawful trade and travel at 329 ports of entry in the U.S. and 70 international locations in more than 40 countries.

Mr. McAleenan's nomination has received overwhelming, bipartisan support. In a letter to Congress, many high-level Department of Homeland Security officials from previous Republican and Democrat administrations attested to Mr. McAleenan's experience, integrity, patriotism, and his commitment to the mission and the security of our nation. The Senate Finance Committee favorably reported Mr. McAleenan's nomination by a voice vote in December 2017, and after he was re-nominated to the position, the committee once again voted unanimously to move his nomination forward in January 2018.

The Commissioner of CBP is an essential position for our national security, responsible for counterterrorism, border security, and trade enforcement. The agency must confront serious challenges each day, from preventing the entry of dangerous drugs like fentanyl into the country to enforcing immigration laws to preventing human trafficking. As both a border and farm state, North Dakota also relies on the CBP to enforce agricultural laws and ensure that agricultural workers and equipment are able to legally cross the border in a timely manner. Ensuring adequate staffing at the northern border is also a concern for CBP, with both recruitment and retention in remote areas an ongoing challenge for the agency.

Given the ever-evolving security challenges our nation faces, the Senate should not delay Mr. McAleenan's nomination any longer. Mr. McAleenan has strong, bipartisan support and deserves swift floor consideration to officially lead and implement his strong vision for the agency. The men and women who serve at CBP deserve a Senate-confirmed Commissioner to help lead their efforts to protect our borders. I hope that you will work with me to help expedite Mr. McAleenan's nomination. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Hoeven". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The first letter "J" is large and loops around the start of the name. The "H" is also prominent, and the "e" at the end has a small flourish.

John Hoeven
U.S. Senator