



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

December 6, 2017

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

Congratulations on your confirmation as the sixth Secretary of Homeland Security. As you take on the honor and challenge of leading the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), I would like to remind you of the importance of managing the Department tasked with protecting the homeland. As Secretary of Homeland Security, it is your duty to lead the over 240,000 men and women responsible for response efforts to natural disasters, large-scale emergencies, and terrorist acts. These individuals look to you to provide guidance and direction for the Department.

President Trump has made several statements about important Department policies and programs; however, DHS is your responsibility. Given the Committee on Homeland Security's oversight responsibilities, it is important to understand whether you agree with the President's statements. Therefore, pursuant to Rule X(3)(g) and Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, please respond in writing to the following by December 20, 2017.

Do you agree or disagree with the following direct statements made by President Trump related to homeland security matters? Please respond yes or no and explain:

1. **Disaster Recovery Response:** *"We cannot keep FEMA [the Federal Emergency Management Agency], the Military & the First Responders, who have been amazing (under the most difficult circumstances) in P.R. [Puerto Rico] forever!"*¹
2. **Southern Border Wall:** *"With Mexico being one of the highest crime Nations in the world, we must have THE WALL. Mexico will pay for it through reimbursement/other."*²

¹ Donald J. Trump Twitter. Oct. 12, 2017.

² Donald J. Trump Twitter. Aug. 27, 2017.

3. **Charlottesville Terrorist Act:** *"I watched those much more closely than you people watched it, and you had a group on one side that was bad and you had a group on the other side that was also very violent. And nobody wants to say that, but I'll say that right now. You had a group on one side that came charging in, without a permit, and they were very, very violent."*³
4. **Muslim Travel Ban:** *"People, the lawyers and the courts can call it whatever they want, but I am calling it what we need and what it is, a TRAVEL BAN...Everybody is arguing whether or not it is a BAN. Call it what you want, it is about keeping bad people (with bad intentions) out of country!"*⁴
5. **Election Security:** *"While Russia, China, other countries, outside groups and people are consistently trying to break through the cyber infrastructure of our governmental institutions, businesses and organizations including the Democrat National Committee, there was absolutely no effect on the outcome of the election including the fact that there was no tampering whatsoever with voting machines."*⁵

I look forward to working with you in support of the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security and in the interest of the security of our Nation. Should you have any questions about this request, please contact Alison Northrop, Chief Director for Oversight, at (202) 226-2616.

Sincerely,


BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Ranking Member

³ Donald J. Trump. Press Conference On Charlottesville. Aug. 15. 2017.

⁴ Donald J. Trump Twitter. Feb. 1 2017 & June 5, 2017.

⁵ Donald J. Trump. Remarks Following Meeting with Intelligence Agencies. Jan. 6, 2017.