

OPENING STATEMENT OF PETER LEVINE  
NOMINEE FOR THE POSITION OF DEPUTY CHIEF  
MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICE COMMITTEE  
APRIL 21, 2015

Chairman McCain, Senator Reed, Members of the Committee –

Thank you for scheduling this hearing. It is my pleasure to appear before you today as the President’s nominee for the position of Deputy Chief Management Officer (DCMO) of the Department of Defense.

I would like to thank the President, Secretary Carter, and Deputy Secretary Work for the confidence they have shown in selecting me for this important position. I would also like to thank my wife Mary Ellen and my son Daniel, both of whom are here with me today, for their understanding and support over the years. I would not be here without them.

This committee established the DCMO position in an effort to address the broken business processes and bureaucratic inefficiencies that cause DOD management programs and support functions to take too long, cost too much, and produce less than optimal results. The committee also expected the DCMO to help the Department develop

and implement the sound business systems and practices that will be needed to produce an auditable financial statement.

I understand that the Deputy Secretary of Defense has directed the DCMO to conduct a review of the organizations and business processes of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and the defense agencies, with the objective of streamlining organizations and improving business processes. I do not believe that there are any significant management processes in the Department of Defense that cannot be streamlined and made more efficient.

Making process improvements will be difficult and time-consuming and may require changes to the culture of the Department. However, I believe that significant improvements are not only possible, but essential to enable the Department to reduce the size and composition of its management headquarters and achieve needed savings without creating bottlenecks that would undermine the mission. If confirmed, I will devote my fullest effort to this project.

Mr. Chairman, it has been my privilege to serve on the staff of the Armed Services Committee for almost twenty years. I believe that

this committee is unique in the Senate because of its productivity, having produced a National Defense Authorization Act every year for the last 53 years. It is unique because of its tradition of bipartisanship, with Members and staff on both sides working together to solve common problems. And it is unique because of its dedication to a common purpose – doing what is best for our men and women in uniform and the national defense.

If confirmed, I pledge to bring this spirit of productivity, bipartisanship, and dedication to our men and women in uniform with me to the Department of Defense.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening statement. I look forward to your questions. Thank you.