

January 22, 2025

The Honorable Rand Paul  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Dirksen Senate Office Building 340  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Dirksen Senate Office Building 340  
Washington, DC 20510



Dear Senator Paul and Senator Peters:

The U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA), the nation's largest emergency management professional association with 5,000+ members across the country, is pleased to support the nomination of Governor Kristi Noem to be Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). IAEM-USA represents the profession dedicated to protecting America's communities from all hazards and threats.

Under Governor Noem's leadership, South Dakota has consistently demonstrated resilience in the face of natural disasters and other emergencies. Her administration's proactive approach to disaster preparedness and recovery has been a model for states across the nation. From implementing comprehensive response plans to coordinating with federal agencies, Governor Noem has shown an unwavering commitment to safeguarding communities and ensuring their swift recovery from disasters.

One of the most notable examples of her leadership in emergency management was her handling of severe flooding in South Dakota. She worked diligently to secure federal disaster declarations, allocate resources efficiently, and ensure affected communities received the support they needed. Her ability to bring together diverse stakeholders—including local governments, tribal nations, and private sector partners—highlighted her skill in fostering collaboration and achieving tangible results during times of adversity.

Governor Noem's emphasis on preparedness has also extended to bolstering cybersecurity and infrastructure protection within her state. Recognizing the evolving nature of threats, she has prioritized initiatives to enhance the resilience of critical systems, a focus that will be invaluable in her role as DHS Secretary.

Governor Noem's hands-on experience and dedication to these priorities will enable her to lead DHS effectively, strengthening the department's capacity to protect our nation and respond to emergencies with efficiency and compassion. IAEM urges swift confirmation of Governor Noem's nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carrie Speranza". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Carrie Speranza, CEM  
President, U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers