

**Statement for the Record of John Charles Demers
Nominee to be Assistant Attorney General
National Security Division
Before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
October 31, 2017**

Chairman Burr, Vice Chairman Warner, and distinguished Members of this Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and for considering my nomination. During my last time at the National Security Division, I worked closely with this Committee to draft and negotiate the FISA Amendments Act of 2008. Should I be confirmed, I hope this hearing will be only the beginning of working with you again on issues critical to the nation's security—issues best addressed when the Congress and the Executive work constructively together.

Public service is never an individual endeavor, and I'd like to thank my wife, Cindy, and my children, Lizzie and Matthew, who have graciously agreed to join me in this new chapter. Their love and the fun we have together provide me always with a sense of calm and a focus that I suspect will be needed. I would also like to thank my parents, Pina and Frank Demers, whose example and encouragement have inspired me to be here today. It is they who taught me right from wrong and that I should always aspire to serve something greater than myself. My sister-in-law and friend, Sue Zmijewski Lim, is here as well, and I am grateful to her and to the other close friends and colleagues here and watching remotely for their love and support. And because I come from a family of teachers and am surrounded by them, let me also thank the many teachers I have had along the way. I owe them more than they—and perhaps I—will ever know.

I am grateful for and humbled by this opportunity to return to the Department of Justice and to the National Security Division. Protecting the national security is the highest priority of the Department, and the National Security Division is at the forefront of these efforts. Although the thinking behind the Division may seem obvious now, those of you who have worked on these issues since before September 11, know that the reorganization that created the Division was revolutionary. It brought together the lawyers prosecuting terrorism and espionage offenses with those working on intelligence investigations. And it created a strong link between the Department and the Intelligence Community. More broadly, it recognized the effectiveness of this combination of law enforcement and intelligence efforts in combatting a variety of threats and the danger and the needlessness of drawing lines and building walls between criminal and intelligence investigations.

Since that time, the capabilities and mission of the Division have broadened to confront new manifestations of old threats. The women and men of the Division have worked tirelessly with the Intelligence Community and other parts of Government to help guard our security, regardless of whether the threats come on airplanes or over the internet. The

dedicated lawyers and professionals of the Division understand that without this security, the promise of liberty enshrined in our founding documents would be an empty one. They also understand that without liberty, security has no purpose. And they recognize that the guarantor of both is the rule of law. Having worked with many in the Division, and followed the Division since I left, I know this first-hand and would consider it an honor to return to serve with them.

Critical to our security and our liberty are the statutory and other authorities that the investigators and prosecutors use every day. I look forward to working together with you and your colleagues to ensure that the Intelligence Community and prosecutors have the tools they need and that these tools keep up with changes in technology and the threats that face us. I also understand that the only way to keep the confidence of the American people in these tools is to use them lawfully and wisely. Thus, I also look forward to furthering the oversight function of the Division and supporting the proper oversight conducted by the Congress and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

The threats we face are real. The objectives of our adversaries are plain—to weaken our culture, our democracy, our values, our economy, and our resolve to lead—indeed, to undermine the very idea of America. I appreciate that you have always taken these threats seriously. I look forward to working with you to ensure that this country continues to thrive and that all Americans enjoy both liberty and security under the rule of law.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be here today. I look forward to answering your questions.