



GENTNER DRUMMOND  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 16, 2026

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Nominee for United States Secretary of Homeland Security**

Dear Leaders Thune and Schumer:

We, the undersigned Attorneys General, strongly support the nomination of United States Senator Markwayne Mullin to serve as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and respectfully urge you to confirm him without delay. Many of us have worked with Senator Mullin on the pressing immigration, law enforcement, and border-security challenges that have defined the past several years. We have seen firsthand his tenacity, his command of the issues, and his genuine commitment to the safety of the American people. He is, in our judgment, exceptionally well suited to lead the Department of Homeland Security at this critical moment.

The threats facing our country have never been more complex or more urgent. The United States and Israel began military strikes against Iran on February 28, 2026, and the Department of Homeland Security has warned of potential retaliatory attacks—including lone-wolf strikes and cyberattacks—on American soil.<sup>1</sup> A shooting in Austin, Texas, on March 1, 2026, which left three people dead and sixteen wounded, is under active investigation by the FBI as a potential act of terrorism with possible ties to the Iran conflict. Iran has a long and documented history of attempting to strike inside the United States, and our own intelligence community's 2025 threat assessment confirmed that Iran "remains committed to its decade-long effort to develop surrogate

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<sup>1</sup> Stephanie Wash & Luke Barr, *Department of Homeland Security Warns of Potential Attacks Amid Iran Operation*, ABC News (Mar. 1, 2026), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/department-homeland-security-warns-potential-attacks-wake-iran/story?id=130665784>.

networks inside the United States.”<sup>2</sup> At the same time, the six Mexican drug cartels now designated as Foreign Terrorist Organizations<sup>3</sup>—the Sinaloa Cartel, CJNG, and others—continue to exercise effective operational control over nearly all illegal traffic across our southern border,<sup>4</sup> flooding our communities with fentanyl and enabling the trafficking of human beings at an industrial scale. The threat is real, it is multifaceted, and it is here, harming Americans every day. The next Secretary of Homeland Security must be prepared to confront all of these dangers simultaneously, and to do so from the moment of confirmation. Senator Mullin is ready.

Senator Mullin brings to this role a depth of legislative and national security experience that is uniquely well matched to the demands of the position. After a decade of service in the United States House of Representatives, he was elected to the United States Senate in 2023, where he serves on the Armed Services Committee, the Appropriations Committee, and the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. His work on Armed Services, in particular, has given him direct familiarity with the defense and intelligence dimensions of border security and counterterrorism—issues that increasingly blur the line between military and civilian law enforcement. His appropriations experience gives him a working knowledge of the funding architecture that sustains DHS operations. And his service on the Indian Affairs Committee has provided him a nuanced understanding of the unique jurisdictional and law enforcement challenges facing tribal communities—communities whose sovereignty and safety must be respected in any comprehensive approach to immigration and border security.

Senator Mullin is a proud citizen of the Cherokee Nation and the first Native American United States Senator since 2005. His identity as a tribal member is not a biographical footnote—it reflects a lived perspective that will bring important depth to the administration of federal immigration and homeland security policy, particularly in those regions of the country where federal, state, and tribal law enforcement jurisdictions intersect. At the same time, Senator Mullin has been an unwavering advocate for secure borders and robust immigration enforcement throughout his congressional career. He has consistently supported the resources, personnel, and legal tools necessary to confront drug trafficking, human smuggling, and the criminal networks that prey upon vulnerable migrants and American communities alike.

Senator Mullin’s record as a business owner and executive further distinguishes him as a nominee. At just twenty years of age, he stepped in to rescue his family’s plumbing business after his father fell ill, and he went on to build Mullin Plumbing into the largest service company of its kind in the region. And he did not stop there, going on to found numerous additional enterprises. This background in building and managing large organizations—meeting payroll, navigating regulatory requirements, making consequential decisions under pressure, and being accountable for results—is precisely the kind of executive experience needed to lead one of the largest and most complex agencies in the federal government.

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<sup>2</sup> Office of the Director of National Intelligence, *Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community*, at 23 (Mar. 2025), <https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/ATA-2025-Unclassified-Report.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep’t of State, *Terrorist Designations of International Cartels* (Feb. 20, 2025), <https://www.state.gov/terrorist-designations-of-international-cartels/>.

<sup>4</sup> Exec. Order No. 14,157, *Designating Cartels and Other Organizations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists*, 90 Fed. Reg. 8439 (Jan. 20, 2025).

In sum, Senator Mullin is exceedingly well prepared to serve as Secretary of Homeland Security. He will bring to the Department a unique combination of legislative, national security, and executive experience, along with a tenacious work ethic and an intimate understanding of the communities—rural, urban, and tribal—most affected by the failures of border security and the scourge of cartel violence. Most importantly, he will bring an unwavering commitment to the safety of the American people at a moment when that commitment is urgently needed. To delay his confirmation is to leave one of the most consequential positions in the federal government vacant while our enemies probe for weaknesses and our states bear the cost. As evidenced by the signatories below, Senator Mullin’s nomination enjoys strong and broad support from Attorneys General across the country. We strongly urge you to confirm him without delay.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gentner Drummond', with a stylized, cursive script.

Gentner Drummond  
Oklahoma Attorney General

Steve Marshall  
Alabama Attorney General

Tim Griffin  
Arkansas Attorney General

James Uthmeier  
Florida Attorney General

Chris Carr  
Georgia Attorney General

Todd Rokita  
Indiana Attorney General

Brenna Bird  
Iowa Attorney General

Russell M. Coleman  
Kentucky Attorney General

Liz Murrill  
Louisiana Attorney General

Lynn Fitch  
Mississippi Attorney General

Catherine Hanaway  
Missouri Attorney General

Austin Knudsen  
Montana Attorney General

Mike Hilgers  
Nebraska Attorney General

Drew Wrigley  
North Dakota Attorney General

Dave Yost  
Ohio Attorney General



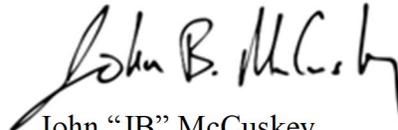
Alan Wilson  
South Carolina Attorney General



Marty Jackley  
South Dakota Attorney General



Ken Paxton  
Texas Attorney General



John "JB" McCuskey  
West Virginia Attorney General