



July 11, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden,

On behalf of the National Retail Federation (NRF), I am writing to you in strong support of the nomination of Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Kevin McAleenan as the next Commissioner. We urge the committee to fully support his nomination.

CBP has the distinct role of not only securing our homeland from a multitude of threats, but also facilitating legitimate trade and travel to help grow our economy. Because of this significant dual mission, the agency needs a leader who understands the unique nature of CBP. Acting Commissioner McAleenan has a long and distinguished history within CBP working to ensure the dual mission of the agency is achieved. CBP must continue to move forward to not only lead the way on facilitation for our trading partners, but continue to lead on enforcement and security initiatives. Acting Commissioner McAleenan has the history and experience to lead such an effort.

NRF is the world's largest retail trade association, representing discount and department stores, home goods and specialty stores, Main Street merchants, grocers, wholesalers, chain restaurants and Internet retailers from the United States and more than 45 countries. Retail is the nation's largest private sector employer, supporting one in four U.S. jobs – 42 million working Americans. Contributing \$2.6 trillion to annual GDP, retail is a daily barometer for the nation's economy.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Gold, NRF's Vice President for Supply Chain and Customs Policy.

Sincerely,

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Finance