

January 12, 2021



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

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

Dear Senator Peters and Senator Portman:

The U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA), the nation's largest emergency management professional association with approximately 5,000 members across the country, is pleased to strongly support the nomination of Alejandro Mayorkas 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, natural and man-made.

Having served with distinction as the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from 2013-2016 and as the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services from 2009-2013, Mr. Mayorkas is uniquely qualified to lead the Department of Homeland Security. While his skill set has not been focused specifically on emergency management, we have no doubt he understands the vital role DHS, through FEMA, plays in supporting state and local emergency management professionals in keeping our communities safe in times of disaster.

In closing, Mr. Mayorkas has impeccable credentials, and IAEM-USA strongly believes he is the right person for the job. We strongly recommend him to the Committee, and we urge a speedy confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judson M. Freed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Judson M. Freed, CEM
President, U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers