

National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones

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May 8, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
Washington, DC 20210

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

The National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones (NAFTZ) is writing on behalf of the foreign-trade zone (FTZ) community to offer our strong support for Acting Commissioner, Kevin K. McAleenan, as the President's nominee to lead U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

Mr. McAleenan's professional credentials are particularly impressive with his long tenure at CBP and extensive involvement in its dual-roles of trade enforcement and facilitation. This experience makes him eminently qualified for the position of commissioner.

Several members of the NAFTZ Board recently had the pleasure to meet with Mr. McAleenan and were struck by his deep level of technical expertise on issues impacting CBP and the trade, including the FTZ stakeholder community. He also understands and appreciates the importance of the U.S. FTZ program as a tool to promote U.S.-based manufacturing and distribution operations, U.S. employment, investment in American communities, and exports, as well as its role in promoting security and compliance best practices among the trade.

The Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection is one of the key appointed positions in the administration of the nation's trade laws and policy. The FTZ community works closely with CBP on a variety of regulatory and policy issues critical to the FTZ program that call for the sort of leadership and vision Mr. McAleenan can provide. Therefore, we urge the Finance Committee and full Senate to move expeditiously on Mr. McAleenan's confirmation for this critical trade position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erik O. Autor". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Erik O. Autor
President