

February 1, 2016

The Honorable Ron Johnson, Chairman
HSGAC
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper, Ranking Member
HSGAC
344 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Carper:

On behalf of the managers and supervisors currently serving our nation in the federal government and whose interests are represented by the Federal Managers Association (FMA), we extend our strongest support for the confirmation of Beth Cobert as Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) when she comes before you in her nomination hearing on February 4. FMA has worked with Acting Director Cobert for a number of years, not only within OPM, but also when she served as Deputy Director of Management for the Office of Management and Budget. Throughout her time working in the Administration, Acting Director Cobert has showed her dedication for creating a sustainable federal workforce that not only examines the needs for current federal employees, but also future employees.

When Acting Director Cobert took on her current duties, the federal workforce was responding to the largest cyber security hack it ever faced. Over 20 million current, retired, and separated federal employees' personally identifying information was compromised, leaving them susceptible to identity theft and financial fraud. Under Cobert's command, OPM has worked tirelessly to provide securities to those affected and their dependents. Because of her efforts, federal employees will receive protections for their financial security. In addition, Acting Director Cobert has taken strides to ensure the federal government continues to strive to be a model employer. As co-chair of the National Council on Federal Labor-Management Relations, she has led discussions on the need for better employee engagement to provide a work environment that encourages collaboration in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness. Additionally, she has brought up the need for better recruitment in order to make the public sector more competitive with the private sector, calling attention to the fact that the federal government cannot fully operate with an aging workforce with less than ten percent of employees under the age of thirty. By bringing attention to these issues, Acting Director Cobert is fully capable to lead OPM and better the federal workforce.

In a time when federal employees have greater demands placed on them, it is necessary to provide competent leadership that understands the needs of the workforce. Beth Cobert offers that. I urge you to vote in favor of her appointment to Director of OPM. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact FMA's Government Affairs Director Greg Stanford at gstanford@fedmanagers.org or (703) 683-8700.

Sincerely,



Patricia J. Niehaus
National President

Cc: Members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee