

Good afternoon, Chairman Cotton, Vice Chairman Warner, distinguished Members of this Committee. It's an honor to appear before you here today. Thank you!

I am truly grateful for and humbled by the distinct honor to be nominated by President Trump for the position of Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis at the Department of Homeland Security. Should I have the privilege of being confirmed for this position, I look forward to further serving our great country, the greatest country in the world, the United States of America.

If I may, I'd like to recognize those who continue to encourage me to be the Christian patriot I am today. I'd be remiss, if I didn't first thank our Heavenly Father for all of His blessings, not only for me and my family, but especially for America.

I'd like to recognize and honor my parents, Matthew and Barbara Kozma, who are here with me today. Their selfless sacrifices provided me with the types of opportunities they could only dream of as children. They instilled in me strong faith in our Lord, duty for our country, a strong work ethic, courage to press forward despite adversity, to be a life-long learner, and to always seek the truth. Their example taught me to strive to put others first and to ensure their safety and security and prosperity. Because of their encouragement, hard work, support, and continued prayers, I was blessed to attend and graduate from the United States Air Force Academy, with a double major in both electrical engineering and applied physics, and patriotically serve America in uniform for over 30 years.

I'd also like to recognize my siblings, Lisa, Mark, and Laura, and their families, who unfortunately could not be here today. No matter the distance or circumstance, they, too, continue to be bastions of love, support, and encouragement.

I'd especially like to recognize my wife and our three children who are all here with me today. I'm eternally grateful to my beautiful, tenacious, and

talented wife, Bethany, for her love, support, and encouragement, and without whom, I wouldn't be sitting here today. We are blessed by God with three incredible and talented children, Madeline, William, and Caroline. I am so proud of each one of them and grateful to be their Dad. It is for them and their futures, for all Americans, that I have served in the defense and security of America in one manner or another for over 30 years and, should I be confirmed, I eagerly look forward to continuing that endeavor as Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis.

I recognize and am humbled by the awesome responsibilities entrusted to this position by the President and the Congress. If confirmed, I look forward to upholding the Constitution, continuing to serve my fellow Americans with integrity, and vigilantly helping to protect the sovereignty and safety of the American Homeland.

Strong, committed leadership is vital to best protect our borders and ensure the safety and security of all Americans. Sadly, America continues to face challenges and threats to our Homeland. Yet, I firmly believe that if we always seek God, we will prevail in defending America against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

If confirmed, I will not enter into this endeavor lightly as the safety and security of America is paramount. The purpose of government must always be to protect its citizens and promote their peace and prosperity. With this in mind, I fully anticipate challenges with this solemn undertaking. In doing so, I look forward to your candor, your confidence, and your counsel.

As I consider how best to execute the roles and responsibilities entrusted to this position, I reflect on four areas that have served me well over the years. From my early experiences as a cadet, through my military service, later as former Intelligence Community Chief Information Officer, and most recently in industry, I submit that technology, technique, team, and trust are all critical for achieving success.

Technology. Technological advantage has been a foundational pillar of America's prosperity. We must vigilantly leverage American ingenuity and innovation to always be strides ahead of our adversaries. America must continue to thrive and lead in all fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and actively protect our critical infrastructure that propels those endeavors. If confirmed, I look forward to ensuring that our analysts and fellow DHS counterparts are equipped with and using state of the art technology to efficiently and effectively execute mission each day.

Technique. Technology without technique is useless. It's imperative that I&A's analysts be informed, educated, and trained on the latest know-how and toolsets to optimally apply available knowledge, insights, and acumen for mission accomplishment. Our intelligence and analytical tradecraft requires a unique combination of skill, curiosity, dedication, vigilance, and trustworthiness to ensure that the information and intelligence we extract and share is correct, comprehensive, and corroborated.

Team. When it comes to homeland security, we are all one team as Americans, regardless of our backgrounds. Talented and dedicated people are our greatest assets and deterrents against those who wish and try to do us harm. It is critical to actively invest in, encourage, and recognize those individuals who strive daily to secure and safeguard our nation's borders, our critical infrastructure, and all Americans from the threats and destruction of terrorism.

Trust. Trust underscores all roles, responsibilities, and facets of I&A. The trust of the American public, Congress and this Committee is key to protecting America. I look forward, if confirmed, to building and strengthening the transparency and trust vital to the checks and balances crafted by our Founding Fathers to ensure a free and vibrant society, securing "the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I look forward to answering your questions.

