

Statement of Jay Clayton
Nominee, Director of National Intelligence
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI)
July 15, 2026

Chairman Cotton, Vice Chairman Warner, and distinguished members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you today as the nominee to be the next Director of National Intelligence.

First and foremost, I would like to thank President Trump for placing his continued trust and confidence in me. I am deeply humbled by this nomination and grateful for the opportunity to continue serving our wonderful country. I also want to thank my wife, Gretchen, and our three children for their commitment to public service. I also thank the many women and men I have worked with at the SEC and the DOJ, some of whom are here today. Together, we have built great teams that have delivered for the American people.

I thank Senator Rounds for his kind words and for his commitment to the people of South Dakota and our country.

I have been fortunate enough to serve in a broad range of roles in both the public and private sectors. Each opportunity has presented challenges and opportunities, and if confirmed, I intend to approach the DNI role in a similar way: Identifying and clarifying the overall mission, determining key objectives, developing strategies to achieve those objectives and metrics that enable our progress to be assessed, and, in each phase, working as a team with others. That approach has worked at the DOJ, at the SEC, and in the private sector.

The mission of the Director of National Intelligence is clear: To ensure that the Intelligence Community, along with the policymakers and institutions it serves—but especially the President, our military leaders, and Congress—receive the best possible intelligence in a “timely, objective, and independent” manner. That obligation will be front of mind every day.

If confirmed, I will work to facilitate and strengthen the coordination and communication between the Intelligence Community and the people we serve to ensure the safety, security, and prosperity

of our citizens and military personnel. I will focus on enhancing the trust of the American people in the ODNI, the Intelligence Community, and our federal government generally.

I will have an open-door and walk-the-halls policy. This has proven to be invaluable throughout my career. I also look forward to engaging with this Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence frequently.

I am confident that my experience in the public and private sectors has prepared me for this role, including my experience in entering and leading large organizations.

As the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, I have gained significant national security expertise, especially in matters involving Foreign Terrorist Organizations, counterespionage, money laundering, bribery, extortion, and communication platforms that facilitate conflict. Our national security unit interacts with U.S. intelligence and counterterrorism officials continuously on dozens of important national security matters. I participate actively in these matters and act as the principal liaison with senior officials at Treasury, State and the DoW.

During my service as Chairman of the SEC, I advised the Intelligence Community on various matters and directly confronted issues with national security implications, notably, Chinese influence and exploitation of our markets and maintaining economic stability during the COVID-19 shutdowns. And in the private sector, I also engaged in a broad range of national security matters, including with officials from the Federal Reserve, DOJ, and Congress. As an example, between my time at the SEC and the DOJ, I testified before the House China Select Committee.

Across these roles, I saw firsthand how a strong national security apparatus depends on decisive judgment, discipline, integrity, and effective communication and cooperation across different branches of the government. If confirmed as Director of National Intelligence, I will commit to upholding these principles every day.

Thank you for your time and service. I look forward to answering your questions.