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April 19, 2021

The Honorable Gary Peters, Chairman
The Honorable Rob Portman, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Portman, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Senior Executives Association (SEA) – which represents the interests of career federal executives in the Senior Executive Service (SES), those in Senior Level (SL), Scientific and Professional (ST) and equivalent positions and other senior career federal leaders – I write to convey the association’s strong endorsement of the nomination of Kiran Ahuja to serve as Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

As this committee is aware, OPM has not been without significant challenges in recent years. SEA made the case in a detailed study released last year that a wholesale transformation of the governance of federal human capital management is necessary, and OPM is a key focal area of the study.¹

OPM is a critical central government agency responsible for human capital polices affecting over 2 million active employees, and over 8 million beneficiaries and annuitants. The agency also plays a critical statutorily-defined role upholding the merit principles. But it must transform the way it operates to do this better, and the congressionally-directed report on OPM from the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) released last month offers important recommendations which SEA endorses.

The role of OPM Director is critical to the success of the federal workforce and the federal government as an employer. The success of the federal workforce means a government able to deliver the promises made by elected officials to taxpayers. SEA strongly endorses Kiran Ahuja for OPM Director because we believe she is the right leader for this agency.

Thank you for your consideration of SEA’s perspective. Please have your staff contact SEA Director of Policy and Outreach Jason Briefel (jason.briefel@seniorexecs.org; 202-971-3300) for further information.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Corsi, Jr.
President

¹ Transforming the Governance of Federal Human Capital Management, Senior Executives Association & the Center for Organizational Excellence, 2020, https://seniorexecs.org/page/HCM_Transform_Governance.