



*The* **UNITED STATES SENATE**  
**COMMITTEE** *on* **FINANCE**  
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**Wyden Statement at Finance Committee Meeting to Report the Nomination of Chris Magnus to lead Customs and Border Protection**

*As Prepared for Delivery*

The Finance Committee meets this morning to vote on the nomination of Chief Chris Magnus to lead Customs and Border Protection. I'll have just a few brief comments this morning before I turn it over to Senator Crapo and other members who wish to speak.

First, it's clear that Chief Magnus is highly qualified for this difficult job. He is a highly respected law enforcement leader, the Chief of Police in Tucson, Arizona, a major population center near our southern border. That means he has valuable, first-hand experience dealing with the immigration challenges that are a key part of this job. And it's clear to me that he's committed to strong enforcement of our immigration laws.

Second, Chief Magnus has also committed to us that the customs and trade facilitation role of this agency isn't going to get short shrift under his watch. This is an issue that has plagued CBP in the past. It is particularly important to get the customs mission done right today, because the pandemic has thrown supply chains into disarray and caused major headaches for businesses and consumers. Chief Magnus told us he will ensure the ports have the customs staffing they need, and he wants to improve their efficiency in a way that maintains safety as well. He's also committed to enforcing the United States' ban on products made with forced labor, to help ensure these products are stopped at the border and never enter our market. This is a big challenge, but modern-day slavery is an affront to our values and the worst kind of unfair trade practice. Chief Magnus understands that it's an area where the U.S. cannot compromise. Those are priorities that this committee shares.

Finally, it's clear to me that Chief Magnus is going to handle this job with hard work and a sense of decency. He shares the view that enforcing our immigration laws and treating people humanely are not mutually exclusive. He's told the committee that he wants to work on big customs and immigration challenges in a way that brings the two sides together. He is

pragmatic. He is committed to transparency, and he's stepping up to take this job because, as he told this committee last month, he wants to make a difference.

In my view, Chief Magnus is the right choice to lead CBP, and he deserves strong support from both sides of the Senate. It wouldn't make a whole lot of sense for members who spoke at length about the situation at the southern border to turn around and oppose the nomination of a highly qualified, highly respected law enforcement officer to lead CBP. So I'm going to support Chief Magnus's nomination, and I urge all members of the committee to do the same.

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