January 13, 2025

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
And Governmental Affairs
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
And Governmental Affairs
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Paul and Ranking Member Peters,

On behalf of the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME), I write in support of confirming Kristi Noem as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Ms. Noem's extensive experience as a state legislator, member of Congress and Governor of South Dakota makes her uniquely qualified for this position.

The commercial explosives industry, including manufacturers, distributors and users, is vital to the U.S. economy, contributing more than $19 billion annually to the U.S. economy and creating 15,000 direct industry jobs and more than 60,000 total jobs.

The safety and security of our products and the communities in which we operate is paramount to our industry. As one of the most highly regulated industries in the world, our members work tirelessly to promote the security of our products throughout the entire supply chain. We are proud of our proven track record of adhering to strict security protocols to safeguard explosive products and their precursors against theft, diversion, or illicit use throughout their lifecycle.

If confirmed, Ms. Noem is well positioned to lead DHS and ensure that the ever-evolving security threats including cyber security and unmanned drones are addressed in a safe and efficient manner. We also believe she will be instrumental in securing the border while ensuring that businesses and industry are able to source well-qualified workers to fill the thousands of vacant positions and keep the economy growing.

I strongly encourage the committee to support the confirmation of Kristi Noem to be Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and favorably report her nomination to the full Senate for consideration.

Sincerely,

J. Clark Mica
President