



The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Crapo
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

October 19, 2021

Re: The Nomination Hearing for Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Crapo:

On behalf of the American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI) and its members, we thank the Senate Finance Committee for holding the confirmation hearing today for Christopher Magnus to be Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection (CBP). CBP serves a critical role in regulating and facilitating international trade. As we emerge from the most challenging time in international trade, it is critical that the U.S. has leadership in the most vital agency charged with ensuring that U.S. products and services reach their intended markets. Today's confirmation hearing is a big step forward.

AAEI further calls on the Senate to proceed rapidly with the remaining steps of confirmation process for rapid approval of Mr. Magnus as CBP Commissioner. CBP has been without a confirmed Commissioner since April 2019. Mr. Magnus was first nominated in May 2021. Mr. Magnus is well qualified to lead CBP. He has served as the Chief of Police for Tucson, Arizona. In this capacity, he understands the challenges of finding a balance between commerce, community, and enforcement.



We Make Global Trade Happen

AAEI has been a national voice for the international trade community in the United States since 1921. AAEI represents the entire spectrum of the international trade community across all industry sectors. Our members include manufacturers, importers, exporters, wholesalers, retailers, and service providers to the industry, which is comprised of customs brokers, freight forwarders, trade advisors, insurers, security providers, transportation interests and ports. Many of these enterprises are small businesses seeking to export to foreign markets. As the technical experts regarding the day-to-day facilitation of trade, AAEI understands the vital role that CBP plays in the administration of the import and export laws and regulations of the United States.

As U.S. importers and exporters are grappling with supply chain disruptions, port congestion, and product shortages and inflation, it's time for CBP to have a leader to steer the agency towards alleviating many of these ills. AAEI urges the Senate to expeditiously approve Mr. Magnus to be the CBP Commissioner.

Sincerely,

Eugene C. Laney Jr.
American Association of Exporters and Importers
President and CEO