

GOP Quotes Opposing Mueller Being Fired

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<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0B5yT7BGaKevEUkl4U3lzUXo1cmM>

Leadership

Sen. Mitch McConnell:

- [The Hill \(6/13/17\)](#): The top two GOP leaders on Capitol Hill — Senate Majority Leader [Mitch McConnell](#) (R-Ky.) and Speaker [Paul Ryan](#) (R-Wis.) — wouldn't comment on Mueller's team but praised Mueller himself. "I have a lot of confidence in Bob Mueller. I think it was a good choice," McConnell told reporters.

Speaker Paul Ryan:

- At a news conference Tuesday, Ryan grew frustrated at having to answer so many questions about what he called media-generated "rumors" that Mueller could soon be ousted. But the Speaker made clear he believed Trump should not interfere with the FBI probe. "I think the best thing to do is to let Robert Mueller do his job. I think the best vindication for the president is to let this investigation go on independent and thoroughly," Ryan said. "That to me is the smartest thing to do, the best thing to do, hopefully it will happen." The Hill: [GOP leaders are unified: Firing Mueller a bad idea](#)
- House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said, "My priority has been to ensure thorough and independent investigations are allowed to follow the facts wherever they may lead. That is what we've been doing here in the House. The addition of Robert Mueller as special counsel is consistent with this goal, and I welcome his role at the Department of Justice."
- [Talking Points Memo](#) 7/12/17: Ryan told reporters on Wednesday that it's important to get to the bottom of what happened, but that's a job for special counsel Robert Mueller and the congressional intelligence committees.

Senate

Sen. Roy Blunt

- [Washington Post \(12/14/17\)](#): "Mueller's public service has been commendable **up until now**. . . . He's a very capable guy and I don't think you benefit by starting this process over again," said Sen. Roy Blunt, Mo., a member of the Senate Republican leadership team and the Intelligence Committee, which also is investigating Trump's alleged Russia ties. "I am concerned that he couldn't put a team together that wasn't so overwhelmingly on one side of the ideological spectrum," he added. "But maybe even somebody as capable and experienced as Mueller can learn a lesson from this."

Sen. Richard Burr

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\) with Sen. Warner](#): "The appointment of former FBI Director and respected lawyer Robert Mueller as special counsel for the Russia investigation is a positive development and will provide some certainty for the American people that the investigation will proceed fairly and..."

Sen. Susan Collins:

- [Politico \(6/12/17\)](#): Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) said the notion of firing Mueller, would “certainly be an extraordinarily unwise move.”
- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): “The Deputy Attorney General made an excellent choice in selecting former FBI Director Robert Mueller to serve as special counsel. He has sterling credentials and is above reproach. Because of his experience leading the FBI for more than a decade...”

Sen. Bob Corker:

- “I can't give credence to reports of [firing Mueller], it's such an out-of-bounds thought,” Sen. Bob Corker said Tuesday. “I can't imagine that anyone in the White House is seriously discussing that. So it's hard for me to even respond in a serious way. It's beyond possibility to me that anyone is considering taking that kind of action.” Buzzfeed: [Congressional republicans stand behind Russia investigator amid rumor that Trump plans to fire him](#)
- [Slate \(10/30/17\)](#): Even retiring Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, who has **openly worried** about whether Trump's recklessness could prompt World War III, doesn't see the president going so far as to fire one measly special counsel. “No,” he said. “I can't even imagine any administration” doing that. “That would be going a step farther than I could possibly imagine.”

Sen. John Cornyn:

- Senate Majority Whip [John Cornyn](#) (R-Texas), a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee who launched a separate Russia investigation, was asked if he has seen anything that might warrant Trump firing Mueller. “I've seen no reason for that,” Cornyn told reporters. Asked if he trusts Mueller to run the FBI investigation, Cornyn replied: “I do.” The Hill: [GOP leaders are unified: Firing Mueller a bad idea](#)
- [The Hill \(6/13/17\)](#): “Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-Texas), a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee who launched a separate Russia investigation, was asked if he has seen anything that might warrant Trump firing Mueller. “I've seen no reason for that,” Cornyn told...”
- [The Hill \(10/30/17\)](#): And when Sen. [John Cornyn](#) (R-Texas) asked if any reporters had any on-topic questions, a reporter quipped: “I have a question about a different Catholic, named Paul Manafort.” Cornyn separately told reporters earlier Monday that the “special counsel's got his own responsibilities and it doesn't involve us.” “I think he knows what to do and he's doing it,” he said, asked about legislation to “shield” Mueller from the president.
- [Press Statement \(5/18/17\)](#) “Robert Mueller is perhaps the single-most qualified individual to lead such an investigation, in my view, and he's certainly independent. As a former F.B.I. Director, the longest-serving F.B.I. Director since J. Edgar Hoover, he, by any measure, has the...”
- “Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-Texas) warned said Judiciary should be careful not to interfere with Mueller's work. “I've heard Sen. Feinstein say we ought to have a hearing on obstruction of justice. That is in my view within **the exclusive purview of the special counsel**,” Cornyn said.” <http://thehill.com/homenews/senate/338057-grassley-rankles-gop-with-new-comey-investigation> (emphasis added)
- [12/15/17 Tweet](#): Quote Tweet: “You Don't” - Original Tweet from Eric Holder: “Speaking on behalf of the vast majority of the American people, Republicans in Congress be forewarned: any attempt to remove Bob Mueller will not be tolerated. These are BS attacks on him/his staff that are blatantly political-designed to hide the real wrongdoing. Country not party”

Senator Tom Cotton:

- [Slate \(10/17/17\)](#): Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton, who rarely speaks to reporters in the hallway, opened up to field questions about his effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate in the tax

reform bill. After a couple minutes, a reporter offered a question about the indictments. The reporter could barely finish the question before Cotton said “no comment.”

Sen. Jeff Flake:

- “I think there's a lot of confidence in Mueller around here,” added Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) “We've all dealt with him.” Politico: [Republicans to Trump: Hands Off Mueller](#)
- [Politico \(5/17/17\)](#): “I think there's a lot of confidence in Mueller around here,” added Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) “We've all dealt with him.”
- The Hill [\(10/30/17\)](#): “There's no indication that he's going to ... fire [Mueller] or pardon [anyone] at this point,” said Sen. [Jeff Flake](#) (R-Ariz.), who, like Corker, has feuded openly with Trump. Pressed if that means he doesn't think legislation is necessary, Flake, who is retiring after 2018, added: “We'll see.”
- [Tweet \(5/17/17\)](#): “We are fortunate that Bob Mueller has accepted the role of Special Counsel in the Russia probe. He is a respected public servant.”
- [Quote Tweet from 5/17/17 \(12/18/17\)](#): “I posted this about Bob Mueller several months ago. I feel the same today”

Sen. Cory Gardner:

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): “I fully support the decision to appoint former FBI Director Robert Mueller to oversee the ongoing investigation into Russia. We need to get all the facts, and Mueller is the type of person who is respected and trusted by both Republicans and Democrats and...”
- [Atlantic](#) (5/17/17): Mueller had “an incredible reputation.” “It's the right decision,” he said Thursday morning at an event hosted by The Atlantic. “Let's get the facts, let's get the information, and let us proceed with all haste.”

Sen. Lindsey Graham:

- [Politico \(6/12/17\)](#): “It would be a disaster,” said Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) “There's no reason to fire Mueller. What's he done to be fired?”
- [Fox News \(10/30/17\)](#): “I've heard nothing from the White House to suggest that the president's going to try to replace Mr. Mueller. Zero evidence from anybody I've talked to. It would be wrong to do so unless there were cause,” Graham said, adding that no politician should be afraid of the American legal system working as it intended.
- [The Hill \(10/30/17\)](#): “I don't feel an urgent need to pass that law until you show me that Mr. Mueller is in jeopardy,” he told reporters on Monday evening.
- [Washington Post \(12/14/17\)](#): “This FBI agent doesn't taint Muller's investigation, because Mueller's going to be responsible for the final product. Mueller fired the guy, I liked that,” said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a leading member in the Judiciary Committee's investigation. “But we need to have somebody looking at this other stuff, and it can't be Mueller.”
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Sen. Chuck Grassley

- [Washington Post \(12/14/17\)](#): “There's all kinds of reasons to believe there's political interference, and we ought to get to the bottom of it,” Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said, adding: “I've got confidence in Mueller, as far as what he's doing in the Trump-Russia investigation, and I don't have any reason to believe otherwise.”
- [Washington Post \(12/14/17\)](#): But when asked if Mueller's former team members' texts were fueling opposition to Mueller's Russia investigation, Grassley's answer was direct and simple: “No.”

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#) "I have a great deal of confidence in Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein and I respect his decision. Mueller has a strong reputation for independence, and comes with the right credentials for this job."

Sen. Orrin Hatch:

- [The Hill \(10/30/17\)](#): "There will be procedural milestones, like today's announcement, along the way, but that doesn't change the basic equation that the Special Counsel needs the time and support necessary to get to the bottom of things," Hatch said in a statement. He added it's "in the best interest for all parties involved to allow Bob Mueller to conduct a full and vigorous investigation."
- [Slate \(10/30/17\)](#): "I do know Paul Manafort," Hatch told me. "I can't say I've had anything to do with him for years, but I'd be surprised if Paul broke any laws." When I asked him what his reaction would be if Trump fired Mueller, Hatch said that "the president has the right to do that. I don't think he *will* do that." (Hatch's office later cleaned up with a statement noting that "these are serious charges, and I believe that it's in the best interest for all parties involved to allow Bob Mueller to conduct a full and vigorous investigation.")

Sen. Jim Inhofe:

- [Slate \(10/30/17\)](#): "Well, I don't think he would," said Oklahoma Sen. Jim Inhofe, who noted that the indictments, so far, don't reveal the president's involvement in anything. ("In the meantime," he added, "don't forget we still have all the Hillary activity.")

Sen. Mike Lee:

- [Fox News \(10/30/17\)](#): Lee said Graham is correct that "politically there would be hell to pay" if Trump fired the special counsel. "That's why presidents generally don't dismiss them," he explained. "I think they're getting to the bottom of some of these facts. I don't think all of these facts are leading where the Democrats wanted," he remarked. "But that's part of the reason why we have investigations and that's why we follow the facts."

Sen. John McCain:

- "He's a very much trusted individual and had an outstanding record as head of the FBI," McCain said. Politico: [Republicans to Trump: Hands Off Mueller](#)
- [Daily Caller \(5/18/17\)](#) McCain went on to say, "He is highly regarded by Republicans and Democrats. All of a sudden I see republicans who praise him to the skies are now saying, 'Aw wait a minute. He's not...'" He asked, "Where? How? Tell me what he's done that would intimate that..."

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

- [Press Statement \(5/18/17\)](#): "I am pleased to see that the Deputy Attorney General has appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller, an individual of uncompromising integrity, as Special Counsel to lead the Russia investigation. This is a positive step towards restoring the public's..."

Sen. Rand Paul:

- GOP Sen. Rand Paul told Jake Tapper that he has no problem with special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, but suspects "the whole thing is sour grapes." [CNN](#)

Sen. James Risch:

- [Washington Post \(12/14/17\)](#): "Set Mueller aside. I don't know. But I have to tell you this: I think those texts, I believe those texts totally taint the investigation that's going on right now," said Sen. James Risch, R-Idaho, a senior member of the Intelligence Committee.

Sen. Marco Rubio:

- "I believe he is going to conduct a full and fair and thorough investigation that we should have confidence in," Rubio told CNN's "State of the Union." "I'll continue to believe that based on his reputation and years of service to our country unless there's any evidence to the contrary," Rubio said. The Hill: [Rubio: "We should have confidence in" Mueller's investigation](#)
- 6/16/17 On State of the Union, Senator Marco Rubio tells Jake Tapper that the President firing Robert Mueller and Rod Rosenstein is "not going to happen." CNN: [Rubio: Trump will not fire Mueller, Rosenstein](#)
- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): "Mr. Mueller is widely respected for his independence and professionalism. I have confidence that he will conduct a fair and thorough investigation."
- [CNN \(5/18/17\)](#) Rubio added he has "no reason" to have questions about the fairness of Mueller's investigation, and does not plan to change his mind on that unless presented with evidence. "His reputation is stellar," Rubio said. Rubio called on Trump and the administration to let the investigation go forward and not cast aspersions. "The best thing that could happen for the President and the country is a full and credible investigation," Rubio said. "If we want to put all of this behind us, let's find out what happened, let's put it out there and let's not undermine the credibility of this investigation."

Sen. Ben Sasse:

- [Washington Post \(5/17/17\)](#) "is a guy whose career is unimpeachable." Washington Post: Sen. Ben Sasse: "Mueller is a guy whose career is unimpeachable."
- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): "Robert Mueller is an exceptional public servant -- from his days as a decorated Marine, through his years as a federal prosecutor, to his time as head of the criminal division and then as Acting Deputy Attorney General, and then onto his twelve years of..."
- [5/17/17 Tweet](#): My statement on Bob Mueller, an honorable man and a true public servant.
- [5/17/17 Press Statement](#): "'Robert Mueller is an exceptional public servant -- from his days as a decorated Marine, through his years as a federal prosecutor, to his time as head of the criminal division and then as Acting Deputy Attorney General, and then onto his twelve years of principled leadership as the Director of the FBI. His record, character, and trustworthiness have been lauded for decades by Republicans and Democrats alike."
- [10/30/17 Tweet](#): "Still True." (Quote Tweets from 5/17 Tweet)

Sen. John Thune:

- [MSNBC \(6/15/17\)](#): "Senator, is Bob Mueller is man of integrity?" MSNBC's Mark Halperin asked Thune during an appearance on "Morning Joe" Thursday, referring to the special counsel in charge of the investigation. "And has he done anything so far in the conduct of the investigation that leads you to believe he is conducting a witch hunt?" "No, he is a man of integrity, Mark, and he needs to be able to do his work," Thune replied. "And I think it's better for all of us if that work continues. It's — obviously he is going to get to the bottom and he is going to find the facts, and I think that's his role. And I think we ought to let him continue to do that and I assume at some point there will be an end to all this. He'll have done his investigation and there will be whatever findings there are." MSNBC: [GOP Senator: Mueller is a Man of Integrity](#)

Sen. Pat Toomey

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): “I have every confidence that Robert Mueller will execute these responsibilities with integrity and professionalism.”

House

Rep. Jim Banks:

- [10/30/17 Tweet](#): 1/ Months ago I & many other Republicans vowed to support Mueller investigation & allow it to work its way through process to get the facts I 2/ In light of today's indictments we must continue to support and allow the integrity of the process to work.

Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) (resigned)

- [Washington Post \(5/17/17\)](#): "Mueller is a great selection. Impeccable credentials. Should be widely accepted."
- [Tweet \(5/17/17\)](#) Former House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah — tweeted Wednesday that "Mueller is a great selection. Impeccable credentials. Should be widely accepted."

Mike Coffman (R-CO)

- Press Statement (5/17/17): "Smart move to appoint a former FBI director as a special counsel to lead the FBI Russian probe."
- [Washington Post \(5/17/17\)](#): "has got a good background in terms of not being partisan and I hope he gets down to the bottom of what really is a growing list of allegations..."

Rep. Chris Collins:

- "At the end of the day it's ill-advised even if the president could [fire Mueller]. But best we can figure out, he couldn't anyway," said Rep. Chris Collins, Trump's liaison to Congress. Buzzfeed: [Congressional republicans stand behind Russia investigator amid rumor that Trump plans to fire him](#)

Barbara Comstock (R-VA)

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): "With Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein's appointment of former FBI Director Robert Mueller as special counsel, the American people can have confidence in a fair and thorough investigation as well as confidence in the eventual outcome."
- [Washington Post 5/17/17](#): "Right thing to do and the right choice"

Ryan Costello (R-PA)

- [Press Statement \(5/18/17\)](#): "Appointing Robert Mueller was the right decision. It is my sincere hope and expectation that the work being done by congressional committees and the special counsel at the Department of Justice will yield the full and verifiable answers I have called for..."

John Culberson (R-TX)

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): "Former FBI Director Robert Mueller is highly regarded, and he is an excellent choice to handle this investigation. I'm confident that he will complete a thorough and fair assessment, so that we can move past this, and continue to tackle the tough issues..."

Rep. Kevin Cramer:

- "Politically, I think it's difficult for the president to fire him, but I don't know what the heck the guy is going to do. There is no purpose any longer unless he is going to find out more about Susan Rice

unmasking issues and potential obstruction from [former Attorney General] Loretta Lynch,” Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) told The Hill. The Hill: [GOP leaders are unified: Firing Mueller a bad idea](#)

Rick Crawford (R-AR)

- [Press Statement \(5/18/17\)](#): As a former FBI Director of 12 years with a strong track record of independence, Robert Mueller is fully equipped to perform a credible investigation. Deputy U.S. Attorney General Rosenstein has picked the right man for the job, and I believe that Mueller

Steve Daines

- [Press Statement \(5/19/17\)](#): “That’s why the appointment on May 17 of former FBI Director Robert Mueller to be the special counsel at DOJ is the right thing to do: he knows the Bureau, he knows the agents and he is above reproach.”

Charlie Dent (R-PA)

- [Press Statement \(5/18/17\)](#): ““Former FBI Director Bob Mueller is a strong and capable investigator with an impeccable character who I believe is perfectly suited to carry out the investigation in the Russian interference in our nation’s 2016 election. It is important that the investigation follows the facts, seeks the truth, is conducted expeditiously, and then let the chips fall where they may.”
- Rep. Charlie Dent called Mueller “a very distinguished man [with] impeccable credentials.” He too said Mueller should be left to conduct his investigation independently. Buzzfeed: [Congressional republicans stand behind Russia investigator amid rumor that Trump plans to fire him](#)
- “Let Mr. Mueller complete his work,” Rep [Charlie Dent](#) (R-Pa.) told CNN’s “State of the Union.” “Less is more. [Say little. There’s nothing to say about this if I were president.](#)”

Ron Estes (R-KS)

- [Press Statement \(5/17/18\)](#): I have confidence in former Director Mueller and the professionals at the U.S. Department of Justice to give us a full and fact-based account of any possible efforts to undermine our election process.

Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick:

- “Bob Mueller is not biased, nor is Jim Comey,” said Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, a former FBI agent from Bucks County who worked at the agency during each of their tenures as director. “They’re good men and they’re professionals and they’re going to do their job.” Philadelphia Inquirer: [As Mueller Comes Under Fire, two PA. Republicans defend him](#)
- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#) “At the FBI, all of my colleagues – regardless of our role - put the pursuit of the truth and the defense of our nation above all else. Our mission was to follow the facts wherever they lead, and to report those facts with unimpeachable integrity.”

Bob Goodlatte (R-VA)

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): “Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein made the right decision by appointing a special counsel to oversee the FBI’s investigation of Russia’s efforts to influence our nation’s 2016 presidential election. Former Director Mueller is a well-respected law enforcement...”

Andy Harris (R-MD)

- [Press Statement \(5/18/17\)](#) “Just as I agreed with Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein’s assessment that Mr. Comey damaged the credibility of the FBI, I trust his judgment in appointing Mr. Mueller as Special Counsel to lead the investigation into potential interference by Russia...”

Jody Hice (R-GA)

- [Press Statement \(5/18/17\)](#): “Former FBI Director Robert Mueller is well respected in Congress, as well as across the law enforcement and intelligence communities.”

John Hoeven

- [Press Statement \(5/18/17\)](#) Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein appointment of former FBI Director Robert Mueller to lead the FBI investigation as Special Counsel is a good choice.

Randy Hultgren (R-IL)

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): “The appointment of former FBI Director Robert Mueller to serve as special counsel on Russia's involvement in the 2016 election is a welcome addition to the ongoing effort to establish the facts. Mueller proved himself as a well-respected and professional...”

Darrell Issa (R-CA)

- [LA Times \(5/17/17\)](#): ““It’s time to get to the bottom of this,” said Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Vista), the first Republican to call for a special counsel. “Americans deserve nothing less than the truth. I have faith that Robert Mueller will provide the independence necessary to be...”

John Kennedy (R-TX)

- [The Hill \(10/30/17\)](#): Sen. [John Kennedy](#) (R-La.) [told Fox News](#) that he didn't believe legislation was "necessary."

Rep. Adam Kinzinger:

- “That would obviously be a bad move. I don’t think he’s really pondering it,” Rep. Adam Kinzinger said. “My thought is more it’s somebody like Newt Gingrich floating it because he’s got a book coming out.” Buzzfeed: [Congressional republicans stand behind Russia investigator amid rumor that Trump plans to fire him](#)
- [USA Today](#): (5/17/17) “a well respected and trusted veteran of the FBI” and “this special counsel appointment is a step in the right direction on getting answers on the many questions we have with Russian meddling in our election and our democracy.”

Rep. Peter King:

- [Politico \(6/12/17\)](#): “I think Bob Mueller’s as good as you’re going to find. I don’t see any reason to remove him now,” said Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.), who has largely defended Trump throughout the investigation into potential Russia ties. Asked whether Comey’s efforts to nudge DOJ to create a special counsel had tainted the probe, King said, “I think it would taint it more to remove him now.”

Doug Lamborn (R-CO)

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#) “I am pleased that the Trump Administration has appointed an honorable, respected, and capable man like former FBI Director Robert Mueller as Special Counsel. A Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, Director Mueller also led the FBI through the aftermath...”

Rep. McCaul

- [7/21/16: Tweet + Video](#), @BradJaffy NBC: “GOP House Homeland Security chair McCaul: If Trump fires Mueller, would be a “tremendous backlash” from Republicans & Dems. [@mitchellreports](#)”

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): “Robert Mueller is a man of utmost integrity and character. I applaud the Deputy Attorney General for appointing him as special counsel for the Russian investigation. I had the pleasure of serving with Mueller in the Department of Justice and believe...”

Martha McSally (R-AZ)

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): “The Justice Department’s naming of former FBI Director Robert Mueller today as special counsel to oversee the ongoing investigation into Russia’s meddling in our election is the right decision at this time. Director Mueller is someone who is free...”

Rep. Pat Meehan

- Rep. Pat Meehan, a former U.S. attorney in Philadelphia who worked with Mueller on a task force looking into corporate fraud and on federal investigations, said the special prosecutor did not arrive with any predisposition to the investigation — despite the president’s attacks. “I know Bob Mueller personally,” said Meehan, of Delaware County. “He has impeccable integrity.”
- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): “Bob Mueller is a man of integrity and I have every confidence he will pursue this investigation and follow the facts, wherever they lead him.”

Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA)

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#) “I strongly support this decision, and I commend Deputy U.S. Attorney General Rosenstein for his leadership. This is the right decision at the right time, and the right man was chosen for the job. Robert Mueller is a highly respected former FBI Director...”

Rob Portman

- [USA Today \(5/17/17\)](#) The issue of Russian meddling in our election must be investigated fully & former FBI dir. Mueller is well qualified to oversee this probe.

Peter Roskam (R-IL)

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): Former FBI Director Mueller is a man of the utmost integrity. I have complete confidence in his ability to conduct a thorough investigation, wherever the facts may lead.

Ed Royce (R-CA)

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#) “Robert Mueller is the right man to lead this investigation. He’s a strong, independent leader who built an impeccable reputation over decades in law enforcement. And as special counsel, I’m confident he’ll pursue the facts – wherever they may lead.”

Rep. Mark Sanford:

- “I think it’s a form of political suicide. If you fire one guy, then you fire another, all of a sudden it begins to look like you’re trying to hide something, look like you have a reason to want the investigations to go away,” Rep. Mark Sanford (R-S.C.), who has criticized Trump at times, told The Hill on Tuesday. “It doesn’t pass the smell test. ... I think people would go nuts,” Sanford added. The Hill: [GOP leaders are unified: Firing Mueller a bad idea](#)

Steve Stivers (R-OH)

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): Robert Mueller is a man of the highest integrity and intellect. If there's anyone who knows how to run a thorough investigation, it's him. Between his work and the work of the congressional investigations in both the House and Senate, the American people

Scott Taylor (R-VA)

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): "Considering this decision was made by the Deputy Attorney General on the basis of public trust in our process, and not from pervasive partisan politics, I completely support it. Let the facts lie where they may."

Steve Womack (R-AR)

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): "I have the utmost confidence in former director Mueller's ability to lead an independent investigation and give the people what they deserve – the truth."

Ted S. Yoho (R-FL)

- [Press Statement \(5/17/17\)](#): The selection of former FBI Director Robert Mueller is an outstanding choice to lead DOJ's investigation. His reputation in law enforcement and in the Department is impeccable.

FBI Director Nominee Christopher Wray

- [CBS News tweet w/ video](#) 7/12/17: I am very committed to supporting director Mueller in the special counsel investigation in whatever way is appropriate for me," Wray says
- [CNN tweet + video](#) 7/12/17: Christopher Wray: "I would consider an effort to tamper with **Director Mueller's** investigation to be unacceptable"
- [Fox News tweet + video](#) 7/12/17: Christopher Wray: "I do not consider Director Mueller to be on a witch hunt."
<http://fxn.ws/2t3MeUv>

GOP QUOTES on Sanctity of the Special Counsel Process/Special Counsel as Justification for Senate Inaction

"Several GOP lawmakers on Thursday told The Hill that Grassley's investigation could conflict with the work of special counsel Robert Mueller at the Justice Department.

"We already have a special counsel. I don't think we should have any more investigations. I don't see how that doesn't fall within his purview. That should all be left to the special counsel," said a Republican senator who requested anonymity to comment candidly."

<http://thehill.com/homenews/senate/338057-grassley-rankles-gop-with-new-comes-investigation>

Also possibly noteworthy, statement for the record from then-Sen. Sessions in advance of the confirmation vote: Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I served on the subcommittee on oversight effort on the FBI and the Department of Justice. I thought if the American people had seen that, they would have known that he was committed to getting to the truth, as he is always, and that there was, indeed, vigorous oversight at least with regard to those aspects of the FBI and the Department of Justice.

Nobody is perfect. Everybody makes mistakes. But it is our duty to ask tough questions and insist on excellence. I am a big fan of the FBI, but they are not perfect. I am a big fan of the Department of Justice, but they are not perfect. Senator Grassley and Senator Specter have been tough on them and demanded excellence, and I respect that. I think it is very healthy. **I believe that Bob Mueller (sic), who I knew at the Department of Justice for many years, is a professional's professional, who is a tough leader with the kinds of insight into the FBI's strengths and weaknesses that would allow him to have a unique opportunity to make a positive change.**

[ROSENSTEIN PRAISE from admin:

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/06/16/politics/trump-aides-past-rosenstein-comments/index.html>]

Roll Call(s) for Mueller confirmation hearing(s)

August 2, 2001 [confirmation vote](#) on nomination as FBI director (**unanimously confirmed, 98-0**)

Bold = R; ***Bold Italic*** = R currently in Senate (***Cochran, Collins, Crapo, Grassley, Hatch, Inhofe, McCain, McConnell, Murkowski, Roberts, Shelby***); then-Sen. **Sessions** also voted yea.

Akaka	Durbin	<i>McCain</i>
Allard	Edwards	<i>McConnell</i>
Allen	Ensign	Mikulski
Baucus	Enzi	Miller
Bayh	Feingold	<i>Murkowski</i>
Bennett	Feinstein	Murray
Biden	Fitzgerald	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Frist	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Graham	Nickles
Boxer	Gramm	Reed
Breaux	<i>Grassley</i>	Reid
Brownback	Gregg	<i>Roberts</i>
Bunning	Hagel	Rockefeller
Burns	Harkin	Santorum
Byrd	<i>Hatch</i>	Sarbanes
Campbell	Helms	Schumer
Cantwell	Hollings	Sessions
Carnahan	Hutchinson	<i>Shelby</i>
Carper	Hutchison	Smith (NH)
Chafee	<i>Inhofe</i>	Smith (OR)
Cleland	Jeffords	Snowe
Clinton	Johnson	Specter
<i>Cochran</i>	Kennedy	Stabenow
<i>Collins</i>	Kerry	Stevens
Conrad	Kohl	Thomas
Corzine	Kyl	Thompson
Craig	Landrieu	Thurmond
<i>Crapo</i>	Leahy	Torricelli
Daschle	Levin	Voinovich
Dayton	Lieberman	Warner
DeWine	Lincoln	Wellstone
Dodd	Lott	Wyden
Dorgan	Lugar	

NOT VOTING--2

Domenici
Inouye

