

Statement of Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Nominee to be Deputy United States Trade Representative
July 31, 2001

I would like to thank Chairman Baucus, Senator Grassely and other members of this committee for your consideration of my nomination.

I am deeply honored to have been nominated by President Bush for the position of Deputy United States Trade Representative, and sincerely appreciate his trust and confidence. Equally, if confirmed, I look forward to working with someone as talented and visionary as Ambassador Robert Zoellick. He has assembled a first-rate team to complement the select corps of career professionals at USTR. Also, if confirmed, I look forward to working with the good people of the Finance Committee and others in Congress to pursue vigorously America's trade interests.

As you know, the trade agenda is full. There is much to be done to regain our momentum in a world that is moving forward aggressively if we hope to maintain America's preeminence in global economics. With the United States party to only two of the 130 free trade agreements worldwide, it is crucial for America to get off the sidelines.

In getting us there, two important initiatives hold tremendous possibility for enhancing U.S. trade interests for farmers, workers, entrepreneurs and families: the launch of a new WTO round focused on further liberalization, and the Free Trade Area of the Americas. Trade Promotion Authority is essential for both.

If confirmed, my experience in the private sector, developing and promoting trade policy at the Department of Commerce and serving as Ambassador to Singapore should assist me greatly in my responsibilities at USTR.

Frankly, the experience that I expect to draw upon most, however, is that which has come through witnessing first-hand the benefits of trade in a manner that cold statistics cannot capture. Economic freedoms promote and reinforce political freedoms. The linkage between free markets and free societies is now well documented. The more we promote open markets, the more we promote democratic values in those markets.

I had the good fortune of seeing Asia and Europe early in my life, long before anyone seriously envisioned countries like Poland, Hungary or the Czech Republic becoming members of NATO, or Bulgaria, Albania or Moldova joining the WTO. And even before Japan, which entered the Kennedy round of trade negotiations in 1964 as a developing country, proved itself as a global economic leader.

China, especially with its pending accession to the WTO, is on the path of ever-expanding economic freedoms that will promote and reinforce greater political freedoms. On a personal note, my wife and I had the great joy of adopting our youngest child, Gracie, from the Jiangsu Province in China. It is my great hope that the China she will come to know in her adult years will more strongly reflect that undeniable linkage between economic and political freedoms.

If confirmed, I intend to do everything possible to pursue trade interests in ways that promote America's values and respect its heritage.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.