

Statement of David S. Johanson
Nominee for Commissioner on the U.S. International Trade Commission
Hearing of the Senate Finance Committee
September 12, 2011

Chairman Baucus, Ranking Member Hatch, and other members of the Finance Committee, I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee for the position of Commissioner on the U.S. International Trade Commission.

I seek this position after having spent the past eight years serving as International Trade Counsel on this committee, currently under Ranking Member Hatch and formerly under prior Chairman and Ranking Member Grassley. I would like to thank Senator Hatch and Senator Grassley for providing me with the tremendous opportunity to work for them. I have consistently found my job at the Finance Committee interesting and challenging. I attribute my positive experiences of the past several years primarily to the two Senators to whom I have reported on this committee. I appreciate as well having had the opportunity to work with Senator Baucus and his Finance Committee staff.

I would like to express my gratitude to Republican Leader McConnell for his support of my nomination.

I would also, of course, like to thank my wife Lynn and my other family members for their understanding and support over the years.

While my experience in the Senate has been positive, I look forward, if confirmed, to new challenges as a Commissioner on the U.S. International Trade Commission. I am confident that my background prepares me well for the position of Commissioner.

I have approximately fifteen years of experience in the field of international trade law. Much of my work has directly involved the Commission. While employed in the Senate, I have participated in the drafting of requests to the Commission for section 332 investigations, miscellaneous tariff bill reports, and other technical trade analyses. Many of these requests have involved agricultural trade, an area on which I have focused throughout my career. The resulting reports and data prepared by the Commission have been integral to my work as a member of the Finance Committee staff. I formerly practiced international trade law at a law firm in Washington, D.C., and in that capacity I had the opportunity to learn first-hand the Commission's role in administering the trade remedy laws. Moreover, the Commission maintains the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, which I have utilized on a regular basis from my earliest days of practicing law to the present. I have often communicated with the Commission on matters pertaining to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule. Given my frequent interactions with the Commission, I am familiar with the functions of this agency and the laws and regulations administered by it.

Of all my qualifications, I believe that my tenure on the staff of the Finance Committee would in particular benefit me as a Commissioner. Through my work on this committee, I know well the importance that Congress places on the activities of the Commission.

I recognize that Congress is principally interested in two statutory functions of the Commission: first, the Commission's administration of the trade remedy laws, and second, its role in providing Congress with independent analysis and information on matters relating to international trade. If confirmed, I assure the Finance Committee that I will administer the trade remedy laws in accordance with congressional intent. I will apply these laws in a fair and objective manner, and my decisions will be based on the facts. I will also be responsive to requests from Congress concerning trade information, trade analysis, and related matters.

It has been a privilege to serve in the position of International Trade Counsel at the Finance Committee. If confirmed, I will miss this committee and my colleagues here. I look forward, however, to the possibility of continuing to work with the Finance Committee as a Commissioner on the U.S. International Trade Commission.

I thank the Finance Committee for its consideration of my nomination.