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Office of the United States Trade Representative
Oral Statement
Senate Committee on Finance
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Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Hatch, and distinguished Members of the Senate Finance Committee, it is a great privilege to appear before you today as the nominee for Deputy U.S. Trade Representative in the Office of the United States Trade Representative. I am humbled by the confidence that President Obama and Ambassador Froman have placed in me to serve in this position.

I would like to thank Senator Landrieu for her warm introduction and support. I have valued our friendship and close working relationship over many years. Fellow Louisianians are fortunate to have such a strong leader and advocate here in Washington.

I would also like to recognize my husband, Bill Keller, who is with me today. His steadfast support and shared belief in public service help enable me to make the full commitments needed for the work ahead.

32 years ago, I moved to Washington to work for my home state Senator Russell Long, who served as Chair and Ranking Member of the Finance Committee for 20 years. From him, I gained a profound appreciation for the role of this Committee and Congress in formulating trade policy. Following his retirement, I served as Counsel for the Senate Commerce Committee under Chairman Fritz Hollings of South Carolina. I am honored to be sitting now on this side of the witness table with the opportunity to once again serve the American people.

Throughout my time working in Congress and in the private sector, I have witnessed the benefits of trade for American businesses and workers. I have seen directly how U.S. exports can drive growth from startups to manufacturers, innovators and service providers. I have also seen how close consultation with Congress and stakeholders can help craft better policies that benefit Americans in growing their businesses, supporting jobs and increasing exports.

I have lived at the epicenter of the digital economy since its early days. I worked to ensure that U.S. goods and services secure fair treatment across borders and our innovative industries, which rely on strong and balanced intellectual property rights protections, are given the best chance to succeed abroad. I traveled extensively to Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America on behalf of American innovators to promote U.S. ingenuity and help break down barriers, helping to create and protect American jobs here at home.

If confirmed, I hope to build on this work and look forward to joining a dedicated USTR team that is working on one of the most ambitious trade agendas in a generation. Together, the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership account for over two-thirds of global GDP. Our partners in the proposed Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA),

expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA), and a just-launched Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) each account for upwards of 80 percent of trade in their respective global sectors. In the WTO more broadly, the Administration is working with the 160 Members to make the agenda and the institution more relevant to our stakeholders and to the world as it exists today.

I know firsthand that the United States and our workers can win in the global economy. Our educated workforce, safe investment climate, culture of innovation, abundant supply of affordable and clean energy, and the market access advantages under our agreements together form a web of incentives to create jobs here and bring jobs back to the United States. If confirmed, I am committed to making the United States the innovation and production platform of choice and to strengthening the potential for Made-In-America goods, services, and agricultural products.

At the same time, we must hold our trading partners accountable by vigorously enforcing our existing trade agreements. It is critical that we take a whole-of-government approach to addressing unfair trade practices. The Obama Administration has an unmatched record on enforcement, filing eighteen cases at the WTO, nearly doubling the rate of cases filed against China. If confirmed by the Senate, I would bring to my position a strong background in global enforcement matters to support this effort.

Over the last several months I have had the honor of meeting with many of you and your staff and that has helped me better understand your priorities in your home states and for this committee. This experience has helped me reaffirm the importance of maintaining a close working relationship between Congress and the Executive Branch. If I am confirmed, I am committed to strengthening and maintaining that ongoing partnership.

Again, I thank the President for this opportunity and the Committee for considering my nomination. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.