

STATEMENT OF MEREDITH BROADBENT,
NOMINEE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, UNITED STATES SENATE
May 8, 2012

Chairman Baucus, Ranking Member Hatch, and Members of the Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I am grateful to the President for nominating me and to Minority Leader McConnell and Senator Portman for supporting my nomination.

If confirmed, I believe my broad experience in international trade, including my service as a staff member in Congress and as a trade negotiator at USTR, has prepared me to assume a leadership position at the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC). To me, this is an exciting time to be considered for an assignment at the ITC.

Congress has just cleared the decks of the pending free trade agreements and a new template for the next generation of agreements is being developed. As you work through novel issues and hone new negotiating objectives, the ITC can provide data and analytical support to inform your policy deliberations.

Congress and the administration are working hard to enhance the rules-based trading system and its ability to address unfair import competition and increasingly complex trade and non-tariff barriers. A record of fair and objective import injury investigations and import-based intellectual-property determinations will be an element in helping you and your colleagues build bipartisan support for a new trade agenda among U.S. workers, farmers and businesses.

My experience serving as a professional staff member for the Committee on Ways and Means during the development of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 and the implementing bill for the Uruguay Round Trade Agreements has given me a deep appreciation for the role that Congress intends the Commission to play in unfair trade remedy investigations and reviews. I understand the importance of objectivity in rendering injury determinations and the legislative intent behind the countervailing duty and anti-dumping laws.

This experience, together with my work on legislation which normalized trade relations with China, has given me a clear grasp of the difficult market access barriers facing U.S. exporters of agricultural and manufactured goods and the essential role that these constituencies play in advancing U.S. trade agreements.

From 2003-2008, I served as Assistant United States Trade Representative for Industry, Market Access and Telecommunications. In this position, I led the U.S. negotiating team on industrial tariffs in the Doha Round, and represented the executive branch in consultations with Congress on recent reforms to the Generalized System of Preferences program.

While at USTR, I supported Ambassador Portman in successfully concluding a \$3.4 billion plurilateral trade agreement which eliminated duties on approximately \$1 billion of U.S. exports in the high technology sector. This little known, non-controversial agreement, which made use of now expired proclamation authority, helped establish more favorable conditions of global competition for a cutting edge U.S. industry.

My experience in administering U.S. trade laws, and as a key requestor and recipient of the ITC's analytical work while serving as a trade negotiator at USTR, make me well qualified to help direct the Commission in the production of relevant studies that will be useful to Congress and the executive branch.

Having worked as congressional staff, I have seen how support for the rules-based trading system is built one industry, one worker, one farmer and one rancher at a time. Every constituent that interfaces with the ITC must receive fair and objective treatment under the trade laws.

It is on that basis that, if confirmed, I would be honored to serve as a member of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Thank you for the privilege of being considered for this position. I want to express appreciation to my husband, Chuck Riedel, and to our two sons, Jess and William, for their support of my interest in serving at the ITC.

With that, I am pleased to respond to any questions.