

William Kimmitt Opening Statement

Chairman Crapo, Ranking Member Wyden, and distinguished Members of the Finance Committee, it is an honor to appear before you as the nominee for the position of Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade. I am deeply grateful to President Trump for nominating me, Secretary Lutnick for his faith in me, and this Committee for its thoughtful consideration of my qualifications for this position. I would also like to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to Senator McCormick for his willingness to introduce me today.

It is my pleasure to introduce my wife Heather who is sitting behind me, and who I thank dearly for her boundless love and support. My daughter Kaitlyn and sons Kevin and Will are also here. Our fourth child, Kaitlyn's twin sister Abby, is not present, as she has a leading role in a school play that is unfortunately scheduled for right now. Also here today are my parents, Bob and Holly Kimmitt, the two greatest role models anyone could hope to have in life. I cannot even begin to express my gratitude to them sufficiently in this short statement.

I was raised in a family with two unquestioned tenets: (1) the dignity and responsibility of public service; and (2) immense respect for the United States Senate. My grandfather, Stan Kimmitt, was a proud Montanan who devoted his post-military career to Senator Mike Mansfield and the Senate, ultimately serving as Secretary of the Senate. He passed away 20 years ago, and I can only imagine what he would think seeing his grandson here today before this body that he revered so highly. My uncle Jay Kimmitt served as a professional staff member on the Appropriations Committee for parts of three decades, and my aunt and Godmother Judy spent almost her entire career in the Senate working for six different Senators. My Senate employment is quite lacking by comparison and consists solely of one summer as Senate page a quarter century ago.

I am proud to continue my family's tradition to heed the call to serve the American people, and I am extremely appreciative of this Committee's consideration of my nomination.

As Counselor to the United States Trade Representative, I had the privilege of working directly on major trade negotiations and matters, advising on policy decisions that affected industries across the American economy. I gained firsthand experience navigating the complex intersection of law, diplomacy, security, and commerce, and worked closely with interagency partners and Congressional stakeholders to advance the Administration's trade priorities. I have also spent over a decade in private practice representing U.S. companies in a broad array of litigation matters, including many with trade and international dimensions. I have represented clients before the International Trade Commission, and I have provided strategic advice to clients regarding complex trade and supply chain issues. This combination of public and private sector experience has given me a comprehensive understanding of how trade policy affects real workers, real businesses, and the long-term competitiveness of the United States. If confirmed, I will bring this perspective to every aspect of the job—ensuring that our trade tools are used strategically, our laws are enforced vigorously, and our exporters have the support they need to succeed globally.

President Trump has ushered in a new era in U.S. trade policy rooted in realism, strength, and the recognition that for too long, the United States accepted structurally imbalanced trade relationships. These imbalances resulted in U.S. factories closing by the thousands, vulnerabilities in our supply chains and national security, and American workers undercut by unfair competition. President Trump has sent a clear message to our trading partners: the United States will no longer tolerate economic arrangements that disadvantage Americans, and our trading relationships must

serve the interests of the United States—not abstract principles and certainly not America’s adversaries.

In this moment of trade recalibration, I believe the role of the Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade is more vital than ever. The International Trade Administration, which I would be honored to lead, plays a crucial role in promoting American exports, enforcing our trade laws, ensuring a level playing field, and attracting foreign investment to the United States.

If confirmed, I will ensure that the ITA will be a champion for American workers and industries, and that their interests are promoted and defended in a complex and competitive global marketplace. I believe our approach to trade must be pragmatic, rooted in American values, and guided by a strategic understanding of our national interest.

I recognize the immense responsibility that comes with this nomination. If confirmed, I will work every day to advance a trade policy that delivers results for the American people. And I will remain committed to the foundational truth that the United States succeeds when its citizens are empowered to innovate, produce, and thrive.

In closing, I want to reiterate my gratitude for this opportunity. I am deeply honored by the prospect of leading the International Trade Administration and contributing to its vital mission. If confirmed, I pledge to dedicate myself fully to upholding the trust placed in me by this Committee and the American people.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to answering your questions.