

Statement of Samuel T. Negatu
Nominee for Member of the United States International Trade Commission
United States Senate Committee on Finance
June 25, 2026

Chairman Crapo, Ranking Member Wyden, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

I am honored to be considered for service as a Commissioner on the United States International Trade Commission and grateful to those who supported my nomination and to the Committee for its consideration.

I would also like to recognize my family, friends, mentors, and former colleagues whose support and encouragement have made this moment possible.

I come from Anaheim, California, and am the son of two immigrants from Ethiopia who came to the United States in pursuit of the American dream. They came seeking freedom, opportunity, and the chance to build a better life.

They taught me the value of hard work, education, and service to something larger than oneself. For their son to sit before this Committee today is beyond anything they could have imagined when they first arrived in this country. It is a testament to the opportunities this country provides and to the enduring promise that, through hard work and perseverance, each generation can build a better future than the one before it.

Those values have guided me throughout my career and led me to opportunities I never expected.

Over the past decade, I have had the privilege of serving on Capitol Hill, at the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and most recently in the private sector. I served in the offices of Representatives Matt Cartwright and Jimmy Gomez, where I gained firsthand experience with the legislative process and the development of U.S. trade policy. I later served at USTR, first as Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Congressional Affairs and then as Assistant General Counsel, working on trade agreements, enforcement matters, and trade policy issues affecting workers, businesses, and communities throughout the United States.

Most recently, I have served as Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs at the Consumer Technology Association, where I have worked on issues involving international trade, innovation, and American competitiveness.

Throughout my career, I have worked with policymakers, stakeholders, and advocates representing a wide range of viewpoints. Those experiences have reinforced my belief that effective public service requires careful attention to facts, respect for differing perspectives, and faithful application of the law.

The International Trade Commission plays a unique role in our system of government. As an independent and bipartisan agency, it serves Congress and the Executive Branch through

objective analysis, rigorous fact-finding, and the administration of important U.S. trade laws. The Commission's work helps ensure that those laws are applied fairly and consistently in support of American workers, farmers, manufacturers, and the domestic industries that drive our economy. Its credibility depends on the quality of its work and the independence of its decision-making.

Throughout my time on Capitol Hill and at USTR, I saw firsthand the value of the Commission's work. Whether providing objective analysis to policymakers or carrying out its responsibilities under our trade laws, the ITC plays an important role in supporting a rules-based trading system and ensuring confidence in the fair administration of those laws. Its research and expertise help inform decisions on some of the most consequential trade issues facing our country.

If confirmed, I will approach this responsibility with humility, integrity, and an open mind. I understand that the role of a Commissioner is fundamentally different from the advocacy and policy roles I have previously held. My duty would be to evaluate each matter based solely on the record before the Commission and to apply the law as enacted by Congress.

It would be the honor of a lifetime to serve on the International Trade Commission. I am grateful for the Committee's consideration and look forward to answering your questions.