

Opening Statement of Bartholomew Thanhauser
Nominee to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission
Before the Senate Committee on Finance Confirmation Hearing
June 25, 2026

Chairman Crapo, Ranking Member Wyden, members of the Finance Committee, I am honored to appear before you today as a nominee for the position of Commissioner on the U.S. International Trade Commission.

I would like to first introduce the members of my family who are here. My wife, Isabel Rivera; my mother, Diana Bell; my mother-in-law, Marlyn Rivera; and my twin brother, Will Thanhauser. I also want to acknowledge members of my family who are not able to be here today. My three-year old son, Santiago, who will be “graduating” from daycare tomorrow. My younger brother, Graham; step-father, Wes; and sister-in-law, Erica, who are watching this hearing virtually. And my father, Charles Thanhauser, who is deceased, but who I am sure would be exceedingly proud to see me here today. I am grateful for all of their love and support. I am also grateful to Senator Wyden for proposing my nomination, as well as my former boss, Senator Cortez Masto, for her kind introduction.

I am honored to be considered for the position of Commissioner on the U.S. International Trade Commission because I believe that the work of the ITC is more important today than ever before. Congress created the ITC over a century ago, in the midst of the First World War, with the United States on the precipice of entering that conflict. At that time, in advocating for the ITC’s creation, President Woodrow Wilson argued that the Commission was needed as “another eye ... to see the facts” and better understand the significant and far-reaching changes to the U.S. economy and global trading system that were underway.

Today, we are again seeing significant and far-reaching changes to the economy and global trading order, and it is again critical that there be “another eye” to provide objective, independent, and nonpartisan analysis to inform policymakers as they consider and debate trade policy. I seek this position after spending the majority of my career working as a non-partisan civil servant, serving Democratic and Republican Administrations alike, and if confirmed I commit that it will be my highest priority to uphold the independence and objectivity of the Commission.

The ITC is also responsible for administering U.S. trade remedy laws – including violations of intellectual property rights. Vigorous enforcement of our trade remedy laws provides necessary relief to American workers and businesses in the face of unfair trade. I understand that the decisions the ITC makes in such cases can be deeply personal – affecting the livelihoods of families and communities throughout our country. This is a significant responsibility and one I would take seriously should I be fortunate enough to be confirmed.

I have worked for nearly a decade and a half as a trade negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, a position in which I have pressed our trading partners to raise their labor and environmental standards so that U.S. workers and firms can compete on a level playing field. And I began my career at USTR helping to build cases at the World Trade Organization

against foreign partners that were violating our trade agreements and undercutting U.S. workers and firms.

It has been an honor to represent the United States in negotiations and trade disputes. I now look forward to serving as an impartial and independent decisionmaker and source of information and analysis. If confirmed, I will administer U.S. trade laws fairly, objectively, and as Congress intended. And I will work with my fellow Commissioners to respond in a complete and expeditious manner to Congressional and Administration requests.

Thank you for the privilege of your consideration. I am now happy to answer your questions.