

United States Senate Committee on Finance
February 6, 2025
Hearing to Consider the Anticipated Nomination of Jamieson Greer, of
Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Question for the Record submitted to Jamieson Greer from Senator Cortez Masto.

Question 1: Regarding the President's proposed tariffs on Canada, the National Association of Home Builders has warned that "consumers end up paying for the tariffs in the form of higher home prices." They have urged President Trump to exempt building materials because of the harmful effect on housing affordability.

If the sweeping tariffs are implemented will you commit to support an independent review by the U.S. International Trade Commission to assess their impact on housing prices? If that review finds an increase in housing prices, will you commit to reassess the tariffs to ensure the administration is not raising prices on working Nevadans?

Answer: The President has not imposed tariffs on Canada or Mexico. He has, however, raised tariffs on China. The President's economic agenda will lead to broad-based growth for American workers and business as it has in the past.

Question 2: Nickel is a critical input to U.S. weapons systems and energy security. Canada is our largest supplier of nickel alloys, supplying half of our nickel each year. Outside of Canada, Communist China or Chinese controlled entities in other nations dominate the nickel trade. Nevada companies are very concerned about increased costs for Canadian nickel if tariffs are implemented.

How will the administration ensure that tariffs on minerals from Canada does not lead the United States to increase our sourcing of these minerals from China and Russia? How will the administration ensure that any higher costs for minerals that are a result of such tariffs do not lead to reduced supply and/or shortages?

Answer: If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and learning more about this issue.

Question 3: This past Sunday (February 2), President Trump said that tariffs "*will definitely happen with the European Union*" and could come "*pretty soon.*" The last time President Trump started a trade war with our partners across the Atlantic, American business and workers paid the price with the EU imposing 25 tariffs on American spirits. These tariffs cost American spirits distillers and winemakers billions of dollars and many companies in Nevada were impacted.

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As USTR, how will you ensure that American distillers and the workers they employ are not hurt by potential retaliatory tariffs?

Answer: If confirmed, I look forward to engaging with you on specific market access priorities and helping to protect our producers against potential retaliation.

Question 4: At your testimony before the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission last year, you outlined a handful of recommendations on trade policy and suggested that Congress consider building on the Inflation Reduction Act and CHIPS and Science Act to incentivize additional sectors such as pharmaceuticals, robotics, medical devices, aircraft, automotive, energy products, telecommunications, electronics.

Given your previous supportive statement, would you advise the President to retain the IRA credits in tax legislation this year?

Answer: President Trump is a proven leader on tax policy matters. During his first term his tax policies resulted in some of the fastest growth in median real wages in decades. While the USTR has no formal role in the formulation of domestic tax policy, I support the President's tax agenda.

Question 5: Do you agree that the Customs and Border Patrol collects tariff revenue? If so, do you agree with President Trump's assessment that we need another duplicative agency called the "External Revenue Service" with the same mission? How does that align with the stated mission to cut waste, and how much would that cost taxpayers?

Answer: 2(b) of the Presidential Memorandum "America First Trade Policy" instructs the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Homeland Security to evaluate the feasibility of establishing an External Revenue Service. As USTR is not named in this section, I recognize that I would have no institutional role in this evaluation. To the extent that my opinion is sought on this matter, I would intend to review such an evaluation carefully to ensure it comports with President Trump's trade policy agenda.

Question 6: President Trump said he would use "economic force" to push Canada toward becoming the 51st state. Do you agree with that policy?

Answer: The President is a proven negotiator, and I defer to him and the State Department on foreign policy objectives.

Question 7: Titanium sponge is a critical material for U.S. national security needs, and it is 100% imported. It is a component in military fighter aircraft, submarines, satellites, and other defense technologies. We're building our domestic processing ability, but the meantime, we should be sourcing this essential material from allies, not Communist China. Nearly all imports come from our key ally Japan, yet the U.S. applies a 15% tariff on these imports, which makes our manufacturing industry, including in Nevada, less competitive with China and

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Russia. During the first Trump Administration, the United States negotiated a limited trade agreement with Japan, with both sides indicating interest in a broader deal.

As USTR, would you plan on further negotiations with Japan? And if so, would you be open the idea of offering to lower our tariffs on titanium sponge as a carrot, in return for Japan reducing duties of their own that benefit U.S. exporters? If you negotiate with Japan, would you commit to consult closely with my office to ensure that any potential deal benefits American manufacturers that use titanium sponge?

Answer: If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and learning more about this issue.

Question 8: President Trump recently fired a number of Inspectors General, whose mission it is to root out fraud and waste in government agencies. USTR currently does not have an Inspector General position. Would you support adding an Inspectors General position to the Office of the USTR?

Answer: The Office of the United States Trade Representative sits within the Executive Office of the President (EOP)—there is no Inspector General for the EOP. As such, adding an Inspector General to the EOP would negatively impact its ability to provide the President with confidential and deliberative advice.

Question 9: As Chief of Staff to USTR Robert Lighthizer, you played a key role in the negotiation of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement or “USMCA.” At the time of its passage, President Trump called USMCA “*the most significant agreement in history*,” “*a monumental win*” for American workers, farmers, manufacturers, and businesses, and declared “*all of our countries will benefit greatly*.” Trump recently said his proposal to hit Canada and Mexico with 25 percent tariffs was “*purely economic*.” Will the Administration be supportive of the USMCA framework or do you believe the first Trump Administration made a bad deal?

Answer: Section 2(d) of the Presidential Memorandum “America First Trade Policy” instructs USTR to begin the review process of USMCA. I cannot prejudge the outcome of such a review but, if confirmed, I will follow the President’s directive and consult with the public and Congress.

Question 10: It is important that the 28 Tribes, Bands, and Colonies in Nevada can get the support they need from the federal government, including ensuring that our trade policy reflects their priorities and interests. Under the Biden Administration, USTR expanded its engagement by launching “Tribal Consultations” to hear directly from Tribal Nations and provide them the opportunity to directly provide input on the President’s Trade Policy Agenda. Will you commit to continuing these consultations?

Answer: If confirmed, USTR will—particularly through its office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement—engage meaningfully with state, local, and tribal governments, as appropriate.

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Question 11: The AGOA program plays a central role in our trade relationship with Africa, and sub-Saharan African countries are important trading partners. Africa is the fastest growing continent in the world, and African countries have a tremendous potential to become important markets for Nevadan exports. At the same time, African countries are suppliers for needed materials in the United States, including for Nevadan companies. As USTR, how would you enhance trade relations between the U.S. and Africa? As USTR, would you commit to working with Congress towards renewing and strengthening the AGOA program?

Answer: Sections 2(g) of the Presidential Memorandum “America First Trade Policy” instructs the USTR to “identify countries with which the United States can negotiate agreements on a bilateral or sector-specific basis to obtain export market access for American workers, farmers, ranchers, service providers, and other businesses...” If confirmed, I would include African nations in this review.

Further, if confirmed, I will—if requested by the Congress—provide technical assistance and consultation on trade related legislation, including with respect to reauthorization of trade preference programs like AGOA.