United States Senate Committee on Finance
October 29, 2025
Hearing to Consider the Nominations of Arjun Mody, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Commissioner Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2031, vice David Fabian Black, term expired; Jeffrey Goettman, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Africa, Western Hemisphere, Europe, the Middle East, Environment, Labor, and Industrial Competitiveness), with the Rank of Ambassador, vice Jayme Ray White; Julie Callahan, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Douglas J. McKalip, resigned; Thomas Bell, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Christi A. Grimm

Questions for the Record submitted to Jeffrey Goettman from Senator Tim Scott.

Question 1: Mr. Goettman, in 2024, South Carolina exported $38 billion in goods to the world, with the largest export markets being Germany ($5.0 billion), Canada ($4.2 billion), Mexico ($3.6 billion), and China ($3.4 billion). This puts South Carolina as the 17th-largest exporter of goods in the U.S. and supports over 112,000 jobs.

With over 100,000 South Carolina jobs dependent on exports, how can trade policy be structured to rebuild and reshore production while keeping those jobs secure?

Answer: The Trump administration and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative has consistently prioritized President Trump's America First Trade Policy, which continues to incentivize the reshoring of critical manufacturing, strengthening supply chains, and ensuring economic resilience for U.S. exports. This approach includes continued negotiations with U.S. trading partners on lowering tariff and non-tariff barriers to increase market access for U.S. goods, with a focus on the necessity of rebuilding domestic capabilities and protecting critical US industries and supply chains from unfair trading practices of other countries. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on understanding the needs of your constituents, with the focus of fair and reciprocal trade in mind.

Question 2: Mr. Goettman, as you know, the 787 Dreamliner aircraft is built in South Carolina and is a major export for America. In fact, Boeing's presence in the state continues to grow. As such, I want to commend President Trump and the Administration for ensuring that there is zero-for-zero tariff discipline for the aerospace industry in the agreements with the UK, EU, and Japan. Mr. Goettman, if confirmed, will you work with our office to help American aerospace maintain its competitive advantage?

Answer: The Trump Administration appreciates the recognition of efforts to secure fair and reciprocal treatment, especially in the aircraft industry. If confirmed, I look forward to collaborating with you and state leaders across South Carolina to explore additional ways to sustain and enhance the U.S. aerospace industry's global edge and competitiveness and increase US aerospace jobs in South Carolina and the United States.

Question 3: Mr. Goettman, what changes to USMCA do you think would make the North American automotive supply chain more globally competitive?

Answer: The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement and its upcoming review under President Trump and Ambassador Greer will provide for a much-needed opportunity to re-engage with labor, environmental, product transformation, and rules of origin standards designed to bolster the U.S. workforce. I cannot prejudge the outcome of the review process but, if confirmed, I will examine regional value content requirements, the U.S. automotive supply chain, and broader North American supply chain competitiveness.

<u>Questions for the Record submitted to Jeffrey Goettman from Senator Lankford.</u>

Mr. Goettman, I am proud to be a co-founder and co-chair of the Abraham Accords Caucus. Our group aims to build upon the successful agreement entered into by the first Trump Administration. As you are aware, the Abraham Accords is one of the single most significant agreements that has been made in decades in the Middle East. The accords are transforming the region and opening new opportunities to promote peace and prosperity alongside Israel and other regional allies. It's been remarkable to witness normalization between Israel and Arab nations.

Trade policy is a critical tool to continue strengthening ties between Israel and Arab states. These agreements have been meaningful instruments of U.S. economic influence in the region and provided pathways for economic integration that benefits U.S. companies and consumers, including through strengthening domestic job creation by developing and maintaining strategic markets for American-made exports.

Question 1: If confirmed, will you commit to working with the caucus to identify ways to strengthen and expand the Abraham Accords? The structure has been built, now we should continue to grow it.

Answer: If confirmed, I will work with President Trump and Ambassador Greer to continue to the promotion of the Abraham Accords, which continue to serve as a landmark achievement in promoting peace and stability in the Middle East through normalization or relations between Israel and Arab nations. I look forward to the opportunity to engage with you and relevant trading partners to explore potential avenues to strengthen and expand the existing agreement, consistent with President Trump's America First Trade Policy.

Question 2: Our allies and partners who reflect our nation's priorities and values should be the biggest benefactors of our trade policy. Will you commit to lowering barriers and increasing economic opportunities for Abraham Accords countries as valued partners and allies and how do you plan to accomplish this?

Answer: If confirmed, I will follow the lead of President Trump and Ambassador Greer in securing fair and reciprocal trade between the U.S. and our valued trading partners.

Questions for the Record submitted to Jeffrey Goettman from Ranking Member Wyden

1. On August 7, 2025 tariffs ranging from 10-40% went into effect on nearly every good from nearly every country in the world. Due to these tariffs, Oregon businesses are faced with crippling costs on inputs and equipment needed to manufacture here in America. Many businesses tell me that these inputs can not be sourced in America. On top of the new input costs, American manufacturers are also dealing with Trump's economic chaos, with tariffs being imposed, postponed, and changed at the President's whim. Businesses need certainty and stability to make long-term investments and create jobs—and Trump's tariff turmoil is the opposite. If confirmed, how will you ensure that American manufacturers can remain competitive in the higher-cost, uncertain business environment created by Trump's disastrous tariffs?

Answer: I believe that reshoring critical manufacturing jobs, growing existing manufacturing industries, and protecting domestic companies from unfair trade practices are an essential part of growing the American economy. If confirmed, I will follow President Trump and Ambassador Greer's lead in growing our economy, creating more resilient supply chains, and increasing real wages for American workers.

2. If confirmed, you will have a lead role in the Trump Administration's ongoing trade talks. As you know, the Constitution gives Congress the sole authority to impose tariffs and to regulate commerce with foreign nations. While I appreciate that USTR staff have made time to brief my staff on a quasi-regular basis, the briefings have become more sporadic and less informative, with staff questions often going unanswered. USTR has also refused to share all negotiating texts with Congress. For example, USTR has only shared the initial draft of U.S. proposals and has not provided any texts shared by other parties in the negotiations.
    a. Will you commit to sharing <u>all</u> negotiating texts, including proposals and counterproposals by trading partners, with Congress?

Answer: If confirmed, I will follow all rules and regulations required by law and will work with you and your team as directed by Ambassador Greer.

  b. Will you commit to sharing <u>all</u> U.S. negotiating texts with Congress, prior to sharing with a foreign country?

Answer: If confirmed, I will follow all rules and regulations required by law and will work with you and your team as directed by Ambassador Greer.

  c. Will you commit to sharing draft trade deals with Congress and making them public for 60 days before they're signed?

Answer: If confirmed, I will follow all ethics rules and regulations required by law and will work with you and your team as directed by Ambassador Greer.

d. Do you believe trade deals should be approved by Congress?

Answer: USTR's incorporating statue clearly states that the USTR reports directly to the President and to the Congress. If confirmed, I look forward to consulting closely with Congress in furtherance of strong and effective U.S. trade policy.

3. If confirmed, you would play a lead role in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) review. I have long fought for full implementation and enforcement of the USMCA, to ensure American workers, farmers and businesses can get the full benefit of the bargain. In my view, the Administration's on-again, off-again tariff threats and actions are distracting from needed efforts to ensure full compliance with the agreement.

   What specific implementation and enforcement issues are you tracking, in key areas including agriculture, environment, labor, and digital, and how would you leverage the USMCA review process to ensure the parties come into full compliance?

Answer: The six-year review of the USMCA is an important opportunity to ensure the Agreement is operating as President Trump and the Congress intended when the USMCA Implementation Act was passed in 2020. I cannot prejudge the outcome of the review process but, if confirmed, I will solicit input from all stakeholders to ensure that the USMCA creates more fair and reciprocal trade, levels the playing field for American companies, and supports good-paying jobs for all Americans, especially with regard to labor, environment, wages, and fair trade. Additionally, The USMCA Interagency Committee on Monitoring and Enforcement (ILC) is continually gathering and assessing information about Mexico's labor reforms. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you to learn more about the priorities of you and your constituents.

4. The agreements with Cambodia and Malaysia on reciprocal trade announced by USTR ostensibly include commitments relating to the protection of the environment, including the enforcement of environmental laws. However, it is unclear from the text of the agreements how or whether USTR intends to ensure that these countries are meeting their respective obligations before entry into force of the agreements. Given that your portfolio will include the environment, please explain how you plan to ensure that any environmental commitments in these and future agreements on reciprocal trade are fully complied with.

Answer: If confirmed, I will make it a priority to protect human rights, reduce labor arbitrage, eliminate forced labor, uphold sound environmental practices, and restrict environmental arbitrage. I commit to working with you and the rest of Congress to consider the trade implications and enforcements mechanisms of our trading partners' labor and environmental practices.

5. I have consistently pressed for stronger enforcement of our trade agreements, including labor commitments. That's why I was proud to support the USMCA, which included the facility-specific Brown-Wyden Rapid Response Labor Mechanism. Now, however, I am concerned that the Trump Administration's efforts to eliminate funding to the International Labor Organization (ILO) and Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) at the Department of Labor are undermining labor enforcement efforts. If confirmed, how do you plan to ensure our trade agreement partners comply with their labor commitments?

Answer: I believe in the strong enforcement of all our trade laws and agreements. If confirmed, I will prioritize enforcement activities, including the continued robust use of the RRM.

6. The USMCA included a new provision requiring all parties to adopt and implement a ban on the importation of goods made with forced labor. The recent agreements on reciprocal trade include similar commitments by Cambodia and Malaysia. If confirmed, you will oversee efforts to monitor trading partners' implementation and enforcement of the forced labor import ban. What is your plan for ensuring that these countries meet their obligations before the deal enters into force and maintain compliance afterwards?

Answer: Ending forced labor is a moral imperative. If confirmed, I will make the aggressive enforcement of all of our trade agreements a top priority. I expect our trading partners to honor the commitments they have made to us.

<u>Questions for the Record submitted to Jeffrey Goettman from Senator Cantwell.</u>

Question 1: As you know, Washington state is home to much of America's aerospace industry. It is a $71 billion industry supporting over 250,000 jobs. I appreciate the Administration's work to ensure that there was a zero for zero treatment in aerospace and a recognition of the 1979 Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft in the EU Agreement.

1. As the bilateral trade relationship continues to evolve in the coming months, can I count on you to ensure that the zero for zero treatment for aerospace remains a priority during your tenure so that American aerospace remains strong?

Answer: The Trump Administration appreciates the recognition of efforts to secure fair and reciprocal treatment, especially in the aircraft industry. If confirmed, I look forward to collaborating with you and state leaders across Washington to explore additional ways to sustain and enhance the U.S. aerospace industry's global edge and competitiveness and increase US aerospace jobs in Washington and the United States.

2. The Administration included zero for zero tariffs and reinstatement of the 1979 Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft in the bilateral frameworks with the United Kingdom, European Union, and Japan. Will similar language for aerospace be included in future framework agreements?

Answer: If confirmed, I look forward to collaborating with you and state leaders across Washington State on ensuring that our civil aircraft industry remains robust and continues to grow in output and US jobs.

Question 2: Some consumer products including apparel, footwear, backpacks, and purses have long faced high, double-digit tariff rates. If new reciprocal tariffs are added on top of those existing rates, you end up with extraordinarily high tariff rates – more than 50 percent for baby products or more than 80 percent for some children's shoes.

1. Given that the Administration has already embraced a non-stacking approach with respect to the EU and Japan, can we expect to see similar non-stacking approaches with other countries, which are major suppliers of these products?

Answer: If confirmed, I will follow the lead of President Trump and Ambassador Greer in implementing fair and reciprocal trade in the negotiations under my purview.

Question 3: It sounds like the Administration's new trade agreements are going to involve new rules of origin or other supply chain requirements.

1. What provisions will they also include to give US companies and US Customs and Border Protection time to learn the new rules, pivot supply chains, and build enforcement and compliance protocols?

Answer: Out of respect for the U.S. Senate's advice and consent process, I have not been involved in discussions at USTR relating to future procedures with CBP. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on the optimal and efficient implementation of any potential rules changes.

<u>Questions for the Record submitted to Jeffrey Goettman from Senator Whitehouse.</u>

Question 1: As a basic principle of economics, do you agree that negative externalities ought to be accounted for in the price of a product?

Answer: As the nominee for Deputy United States Trade Representative, I believe that it is my duty, if confirmed, to take into account all necessary information, including labor and environmental arbitrage, to make an informed decision. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on hearing more about how Rhode Islanders can have their voices represented at USTR.

Question 2: As President Trump said in 2018 when he signed my bipartisan Save our Seas Act with Senator Sullivan to address plastic pollution: "Every year, over 8 million tons of garbage is dumped into our beautiful oceans by many countries of the world...This waste, trash, and debris harms not only marine life, but also fishermen, coastal economies along America's vast stretches...And we're charged with removing it, which is a very unfair situation."[1]

One of the reasons for this is the failure of competitor countries, especially China and other Asian countries, to adequately invest in their waste management systems.

A) Will you consider trade penalties on countries we compete with for failing to maintain adequate waste management systems or control ocean plastic pollution?

Answer: Yes. If confirmed, I look forward to consulting with you and your team on ways to ensure a cleaner environment.

Question 3: Do you agree that trade penalties are appropriate on countries that give their companies an advantage over their U.S. competitors by maintaining lower health and environmental standards than our own?

Answer: I agree with President Trump and Ambassador Greer that we must continue our critical work to put America First in trade discussions with partners. I enjoyed my conversation with you on the impact of environmental standards arbitrage and the competitiveness of US workers and businesses. If confirmed, I look forward to engaging with you further on health and environmental standards.

Question 4: The recent trade agreement USTR negotiated with Malaysia includes the following provision: "Malaysia shall coordinate and endeavor to align its border measures applicable to third-country imports with relevant border measures that the United States may adopt in the future, such as border-adjusted tax measures or other border measures, to combat regulatory arbitrage that would disadvantage U.S. workers and businesses."

A) Why is it helpful for our trading partners to be aligned with us in combatting regulatory arbitrage from other countries?

Answer: Combating transshipment and rule of origin arbitrage is crucial for upholding fair trade and stopping illicit activities.

Question 5: Would you agree that the failure of countries to maintain and enforce basic air, plastic, and other pollution rules represents a form of "regulatory arbitrage"?

Answer: I remain concerned by businesses and industries that relocate to, or operate in, third-party countries with lower environmental standards. If confirmed, I look forward to engaging further on this matter with you and your team.

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[1] https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-signing-s-3508-save-seas-act-2018/

Question 6: If confirmed, will you work with your colleagues at USTR to ensure that efforts to combat regulatory arbitrage include lax foreign environmental regulations?

Answer: I remain concerned by businesses and industries that relocate to, or operate in, third-party countries with lower environmental standards. If confirmed, I look forward to engaging further on this matter with you and your team.

Questions for the Record submitted to Jeffrey Goettman from Senator Hassan.

Question 1:

Last week the President announced a new additional 10% tariff on imports from Canada. Adding this on top of the President's previous 35% tariff, American families are now facing a 45% sales tax on many products that they buy from Canada.

How many more billions of dollars a month are American families paying in tariffs due to the President's sales tax on Canadian products?

Answer: The Trump Administration and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative has consistently prioritized President Trump's America First Trade Policy, which continues to incentivize the reshoring of critical manufacturing, strengthening supply chains, and ensuring a level playing field for U.S. exports. This approach includes continued negotiations with U.S. trading partners on lowering tariff and non-tariff barriers for U.S. goods, with a focus on the necessity of rebuilding domestic capabilities and stopping unfair trade practices. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on understanding the needs of your constituents, with the focus of fair and reciprocal trade in mind.

Questions for the Record submitted to Jeffrey Goettman from Senator Cortez Masto.

Question 1: As Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, you would be charged with overseeing U.S. engagement and negotiations with the Western Hemisphere, including our USMCA partners Canada and Mexico. What will you do to ensure that the administration's trade policies—and specifically the upcoming "Joint Review" of the USMCA—does not cause further harm to America's travel and tourism industry?

Answer: The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and its upcoming review under President Trump and Ambassador Greer will provide for a much-needed opportunity to re-engage with labor, environmental, product transformation, and rules of origin standards designed to bolster the U.S. workforce. I cannot prejudge the outcome of the review process but, if confirmed, I will examine USMCA's impact on tourism.

Question 2: You noted in your opening statement that during your time at the Export-Import Bank of the United States, you had a front row seat to the "erosion of America's market share in critical infrastructure and durable goods industries" in strategic regions of the world, like Africa, while China expanded its commercial and political influence in Africa. Please explain how the Administration's blanket tariffs on African countries, including a 15% tariff on products imported into the U.S. from Lesotho, addresses this issue? How do these tariffs stop China's continued expansion of its commercial influence in Africa?

Answer: If confirmed, I look forward to engaging with African trading partners and working with you to increase our presence in Africa.

<u>Questions for the Record submitted to Jeffrey Goettman from Senator Warren.</u>

Question 1: Will you commit to recuse yourself from all particular matters involving your former clients or employers for at least four years?

Answer: I will follow all ethics rules and regulations required by law.

Question 2: Will you commit not to seek employment or board membership with, or another form of compensation from, a company that you regulate or otherwise interact with while in government, for at least four years after leaving office?

Answer: I will follow all ethics rules and regulations required by law.

Question 3: Will you commit not to lobby the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative — including work as an informal "shadow lobbyist" — for at least four years after leaving office?

Answer: I will follow all ethics rules and regulations required by law.

Question 4: What role, if any, should investor–state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanisms play in our global trade systems?

Answer: I look forward to working with you, this Committee, and Congress on ISDS and other investment-related issues in USMCA and other agreements, as appropriate.

Question 5: If U.S. courts determine that President Trump's tariff policy is illegal, do you commit to adhering to that decision?

Answer: President Trump's actions under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act are legal and I am confident they will be upheld. I will always follow the law.

Question 6: Big Tech has long sought protections for the so-called "free flow of data," meaning they want to constrain governments from protecting the personal data of their citizens to bad actors around the world. In other words, Big Tech wants to keep auctioning Americans' data to the highest bidder, even when that means that their data makes it to the Chinese or Russian government.

A. Do you believe that commonsense policies protecting the data of American citizens should be restricted?

Answer: If confirmed, I will follow the lead of President Trump and Ambassador Greer on policies relating to data protection.

B. So-called "free flow of data" provisions could also help companies evade laws that protect children from seeing inappropriate content online, including legislation passed through the Senate on a bipartisan basis. Will you oppose trade provisions that allow tech companies to bypass laws written to protect our children?

Answer: If confirmed, I will follow the lead of President Trump and Ambassador Greer on policies relating to data protection.

Question 7: Big Tech companies have long claimed that neutrally applicable competition and consumer protection policies are "illegal trade discrimination." In reality, these are facially neutral policies that disproportionately impact "digital products" of dominant companies that happen to be headquartered in the U.S. Deeming such policies "discriminatory" could undermine efforts by U.S. policymakers to pass new legislation and antitrust enforcers to crack down on anti-competitive conduct, including price fixing and self-dealing, by the largest tech companies. Do you believe that all policies impacting the largest tech companies—which happen to be U.S.-based—are inherently "discriminatory"?

Answer: Sovereignty does not grant foreign actors cart blanche to discriminate against U.S. companies. USTR will protect the rights of all U.S. companies consistent with the law.

Question 8: Do you agree with the Administration that export controls on sensitive technologies that underpin the U.S. technological advantage should be bargained away during trade negotiations?

Answer: Out of respect for the U.S. Senate's advice and consent process, I have not been involved in discussions at USTR relating to this question.

Question 9: Congress and the American people deserve the right to weigh in on important trade negotiations. The Office of the United States Trade Representative should publish draft text for any trade agreement negotiated through those negotiations, solicit public comments with respect to those negotiations, and hold a public hearing with respect to those negotiations not less frequently than once every quarter or once every negotiating round, whichever occurs first, while those negotiations are ongoing. Will you commit to publish draft text and solicit public comment for trade agreements while you are in office?

Answer: If confirmed, I will follow all rules and regulations required by law.

Question 10: The US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) created the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) to investigate facility-specific violations of workers' rights. However, wage gaps between the United States, Mexico, and Canada remain vast, and offshoring to low-wage, weak-enforcement jurisdictions continues to erode industrial employment across the region. The RRM's reach remains narrow and inconsistent. It excludes entire industries, fails to protect migrant and contract laborers, and has not generated economywide improvements in collective bargaining or independent union representation. Will you commit to advocating for expansion of the RRM to more industries in USMCA renegotiations?

Answer: The RRM is an important mechanism with USMCA. If confirmed, I will use the 6-year review to assess its success and opportunities for additional improvement.

Question 11: Will you advocate to condition preferential access to goods and services on payment of fair wages and full compliance with labor rights, supported by transparent reporting on wage levels in exported goods and services, during USMCA renegotiations?

Answer: The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement and its upcoming review under President Trump and Ambassador Greer will provide for a much-needed opportunity to re-engage with labor, environmental, product transformation, and rules of origin standards designed to bolster the U.S. workforce. I cannot prejudge the outcome of the review process but, if confirmed, I will examine labor and wage issues.

Question 12: Has a member of your family currently or ever been a member, founder, or investor of the "Executive Branch" social club? If so, please provide their name and role related to the club.

Answer: No.

Question 13: Has a member of your family ever visited the "Executive Branch" social club or attended an event at the club? If so, please provide the date, circumstances of the visit, and the event.

Answer: No.

Question 14: Have you had any meetings at the "Executive Branch" social club? If so, what were these meetings about and with whom?

Answer: No.

Question 15: Has a member of your family had any meetings at the "Executive Branch" social club? If so, which family member(s), what were these meetings about, and with whom were these meetings?

Answer: No.

Question 16: Have you encouraged anyone to join the club or promote the club in any other way? If so, in what ways did you promote the club?

Answer: No.

Question 17: Has a member of your family encouraged anyone to join the club or promote the club in any other way? If so, which family member(s) and in what ways did they promote the club?

Answer: No.

Question 18: Will you receive any advisor fees, consulting fees, bonuses, or other payments after the date of your confirmation?

Answer: I will follow all ethics rules and regulations required by law.

Question 19: What steps will you take to divest from any financial interests or recuse from any issues that you have a personal interest in?

Answer: I have followed all ethics rules and regulations required by law; and if confirmed, I will continue to follow all ethics rules and regulations required by law.

<u>Questions for the Record submitted to Jeffrey Goettman from Senator Warnock.</u>

Question 1: The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which has been a cornerstone of U.S.-Africa trade policy for nearly 25 years, expired on September 30, 2025. Between the Trump Administration's tariff policy and this program's expiration, the International Trade Center estimates that average duties on AGOA countries could climb to 13.9 percent. At the same time, China has eliminated tariffs on imports from 32 African countries to boost trade and already amassed a $60 billion trade surplus with Africa this year.

- Do you agree that it is important for Congress to maintain trade tools like AGOA?

Answer: I support a one-year reauthorization of AGOA and, if confirmed and asked to do so, will provide technical assistance to the Committee on ways to better align AGOA with our current trade priorities.

If confirmed, will you commit to working with Congress and with this Committee, on a bipartisan basis to reauthorize AGOA and develop reforms to strengthen it in the long-term, should we seek your assistance?

Answer: If confirmed and asked to do so, I will provide technical assistance to the Committee on ways to better align AGOA with our current trade priorities.

- What reforms do you believe are necessary to promote transparent, mutually beneficial economic growth in Africa and encourage positive alignment with U.S. strategic interests while offering a credible alternative to coercive Chinese economic influence?

Answer:
If confirmed, I look forward to engaging with African trading partners and working with you to increase our presence in Africa.

Question 2: Right now, Haiti faces a spiraling security and humanitarian crisis that will be further compounded by Hurricane Melissa. The Haiti Economic Lift Program, which also expired on September 30, 2025, has been the economic pillar of U.S.-supported efforts to stabilize Haiti and restore security. It sustains the Haitian textile export industry, and previously supported roughly 250,000 Haitian jobs, and provided high-quality, low-cost goods for American consumers produced under labor standards that reflect U.S. values. I have introduced bipartisan legislation, the *Haiti Economic Lift Program Extension Act of 2025*, to reauthorize these trade programs for an additional 10 years.

- Given the uncertainty in Haiti's apparel sector and the importance of maintaining Western Hemisphere production, does the Administration support a renewal of HOPE/HELP for a further ten years to provide the stability investors and U.S. supply chains need and support security efforts in the country?

Answer: I support a one year reauthorization of HOPE/HELP Haiti and, if confirmed and asked to do so, will provide technical assistance to the Committee on ways to better align the program with our current trade priorities.

- If confirmed, will you commit to working with Congress and with this Committee, on a bipartisan basis to reauthorize this program to ensure that it promotes sustainable job creation, responsible labor practices, and long-term private sector investment in Haiti, should we seek your assistance?

Answer: If confirmed and asked to do so, and, I will provide technical assistance to the Committee on ways to better align HOPE/HELP Haiti with our current trade priorities.

- As the Trump Administration increases its focus on the Western Hemisphere, how will you ensure that trade preference programs like the Haiti Economic Lift Program are aligned with broader U.S. economic, security, and irregular migration stabilization goals for the region?

Answer: If confirmed and asked to do so, I will provide technical assistance to the Committee on ways to better align regional trade preference programs with our current trade priorities.