

**United States Senate Committee on Finance
July 16, 2026**

Hearing to Consider the Nominations of Francis Brooke, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, vice Michael Faulkender; Erin Browne, of New York, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury, vice Jay Curtis Shambaugh, resigned; Sriprakash Kothari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Benjamin Harris, resigned; and George McMaster, of South Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Joshua Frost, resigned

Questions for the Record submitted to Sriprakash Kothari from Senator Warren.

Loyalty to President Trump

Question 1:

During or leading up to the selection of your nomination, did anyone on the Trump campaign, transition team, or other closely related entity approach you about your loyalty to President-elect Trump? Did you sign a loyalty pledge or other similar oath?

Answer: No.

Question 2:

President Trump has, during his second term, stated the following, either verbally or via social media. For each statement below, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the President's statement and why.

- "I'm winning a War, BY A LOT, things are going very well..."¹
- "The word 'affordability' is a Democrat scam."²
- "America's Elections are Rigged, Stolen, and a Laughingstock all over the World."³

¹ Truth Social Post by President Donald Trump, April 20, 2026, <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/116438577686057718>.

² C-SPAN, "President Trump Holds a Cabinet Meeting," December 2, 2025, <https://www.c-span.org/program/white-house-event/president-trump-holds-a-cabinet-meeting/669774>.

³ Truth Social Post by President Donald Trump, May 2, 2026, <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/116162644396687602>.

- “The word ‘affordability’ is a fake word made up by the Democrats.”⁴
- “I love the inflation”⁵
- Trump said he “defeated” inflation⁶
- Prices are “plummeting downward”⁷
- “I don’t think about Americans’ financial situation”⁸
- “Right now we’re much less...our energy costs are way down, our groceries are way down, [and] everything is way down.”⁹
- "TRUMP’S MAKING FOOD AFFORDABLE”¹⁰
- “BEST ECONOMY EVER...WINNING LIKE NEVER BEFORE”¹¹ // “Strongest economy we’ve ever had”¹²
- “I’ve won affordability.”¹³

⁴ Post on X by Aaron Rupar, June 17, 2026, <https://x.com/atrupar/status/2067291775866220880?s=20>.

⁵ Reuters, “‘I love the inflation,’ Trump says as prices rise amid Iran war,” Bo Erickson and Susan Heavey, June 10, 2026, <https://www.reuters.com/world/i-love-inflation-trump-says-prices-rise-amid-iran-war-2026-06-10/>.

⁶ CNBC, “Trump says inflation was ‘defeated.’ Some economists disagree,” Greg Iacuri and Jessica Dickler, January 21, 2026, <https://www.cnbc.com/2026/01/21/trump-inflation-defeated.html>.

⁷ Wall Street Journal, “Trump Says Prices Are Falling,” Jeanne Whalen, February 24, 2026, <https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/trump-state-of-the-union-2026/card/trump-says-prices-are-falling-PpBm1rDUZl98Q5FJ60WL>.

⁸ PBS News, “WATCH: ‘I don’t think about Americans’ financial situation’ when negotiating with Iran, Trump says,” Maria Ramirez Uribe, May 12, 2026, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/watch-i-dont-think-about-americans-financial-situation-when-negotiating-with-iran-trump-says>.

⁹ C-SPAN, “President Trump Hosts White House Dinner for Central Asian Countries,” November 6, 2025, <https://www.c-span.org/program/white-house-event/president-trump-hosts-white-house-dinner-for-central-asian-countries/668620>.

¹⁰ Truth Social Post by President Donald Trump, May 27, 2026, <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/116647792196617911>.

¹¹ Instagram Post by President Donald Trump, June 21, 2026, <https://www.instagram.com/p/DZ3IZiTzU8Z/>.

¹² Forbes, “Trump Says Affordability Is ‘Fake Word’ As Inflation Hits 3-Year High,” Mary Whitfill Roeloffs, June 17, 2026, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/maryroeloffs/2026/06/17/trump-says-affordability-is-fake-word-as-inflation-hits-3-year-high/>.

¹³ Politico, “‘I’ve won affordability’: Trump previews SOTU in Georgia rally,” Aaron Pellish, February 19, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/02/19/trump-sotu-georgia-rally-00790155>

Answer: I support the President's America First economic agenda and its focus on growth, affordability, and opportunity for American workers.

Inflation

Question 3:

The President promised to lower costs “on day one.”¹⁴ If confirmed, you would be responsible for making recommendations to the Treasury Secretary on how to lower costs for American families. Please list at least five recommendations you would make to Secretary Bessent to lower costs.

Answer: If confirmed, I would recommend policies that builds on the Working Families Tax Cuts Act and advances the President’s America First economic agenda.

Question 4:

Year-over-year PCE was 2.5% in January 2025¹⁵ and 4.1% in May 2026.¹⁶ What factors have contributed to the increase in PCE inflation since January 2025?

- What categories have experienced the fastest acceleration in inflation since January 2025?

Answer: If confirmed, I will utilize the Office of Economic Policy’s resources to provide analysis regarding changes in prices.

Question 5:

Year-over-year core PCE was 2.6% in January 2025¹⁷ and 3.4% in May 2026.¹⁸ What factors have contributed to the increase in core PCE inflation since January 2025?

Answer: See answer to question 4.

¹⁴ CNN, “Candidate Trump vowed to make America affordable again. President Trump says it’s a ‘scam’,” Matt Egan, December 5, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/12/05/business/prices-trump-affordable-jobs>.

¹⁵ U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, “Personal Income and Outlays, January 2025,” news release, <https://www.bea.gov/news/2025/personal-income-and-outlays-january-2025>.

¹⁶ U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, “Personal Income and Outlays, May 2026,” news release, <https://www.bea.gov/news/2026/personal-income-and-outlays-may-2026>.

¹⁷ U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, “Personal Income and Outlays, January 2025,” news release, <https://www.bea.gov/news/2025/personal-income-and-outlays-january-2025>.

¹⁸ U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, “Personal Income and Outlays, May 2026,” news release, <https://www.bea.gov/news/2026/personal-income-and-outlays-may-2026>.

Question 6:

Annual core goods inflation for items like clothes, furniture, and new and used cars has been elevated under President Trump. Annual core goods inflation was 1% in May 2026.¹⁹ In January 2025, that same measure was -0.07%²⁰ In fact, throughout 2024, year-over-year core goods inflation was negative; from January 2025 to March 2025, it hovered around 0; and starting in April 2025, it accelerated.²¹

- What factors have contributed to the increase in core goods inflation since January 2025?

Answer: See answer to question 4.

Question 7:

Residential electricity prices have increased by more than 18% since January 2025.²²

- What factors have contributed to this increase?
- What recommendations would you make to the Treasury Secretary, if confirmed, on how to bring electricity costs down?

Answer: Electricity prices reflect a complex combination of supply and demand factors. If confirmed, I will advise the Secretary on policies to expand energy supply and improve the resilience of the nation's electrical infrastructure.

Question 8:

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, grocery inflation was 1.2% in 2024 and 2.3% in 2025.²³ Why did food-at-home inflation nearly double in 2025 from 2024?

- Did President Trump's trade policies increase food inflation? Explain.

¹⁹ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Commodities Less Food and Energy Commodities in U.S. City Average," <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CUSR0000SACL1E>.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.*

²² Staff calculations of EIA's Electricity Monthly Update, <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/update/end-use.php>

²³ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, "Food Price Outlook - Summary Findings," January 23, 2026, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook/summary-findings>.

Answer: Food prices reflect global agricultural commodity markets, weather events, and various other complex factors. If confirmed, I will provide objective analysis on this matter.

Question 9:

In late 2025, President Trump signed an executive order exempting coffee, tea, tropical fruits, beef, and other agricultural products from reciprocal tariffs.²⁴ President Trump indicated that the exemptions should cause prices to go down and noted that the products in question are “not competitive in this country.”²⁵ And Secretary Bessent said the tariff exemptions would “bring prices down very quickly.”²⁶

- Did the Trump Administration exempt agriculture products from reciprocal tariffs to lower costs for American families?
- Does the Trump Administration exempting agriculture products from reciprocal tariffs suggest that reciprocal tariffs prior to the exemptions were raising prices?

Answer: The President has broad authority over trade policy. Questions regarding the specific rationale for tariff policy decisions should be directed to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

Question 10:

Do you agree with each of the following statements, which are based on the federal government’s own data?²⁷

- Between June 2025 and June 2026, lettuce prices rose 32.1%.
- Between June 2025 and June 2026, tomato prices rose 19.5%.
- Between June 2025 and June 2026, coffee prices rose 12.9%.

²⁴ Executive Order 14360, “Modifying the Scope of the Reciprocal Tariffs With Respect to Certain Agricultural Products,” November 14, 2025, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/11/25/2025-21203/modifying-the-scope-of-the-reciprocal-tariffs-with-respect-to-certain-agricultural-products>.

²⁵ CBS News, “Trump cuts tariffs on beef, coffee, bananas and other food imports,” Joe Walsh, November 14, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-cuts-tariffs-beef-coffee-bananas-and-other-food-imports/>.

²⁶ NBC News, “Bessent says 'substantial' tariff relief on coffee and bananas is coming soon,” Steve Kopack, November 12, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/business-news/trump-bessent-coffee-tariffs-rcna243425>.

²⁷ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Economic News Release, Consumer Price Index, “Table 2. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U. S. city average, by detailed expenditure category,” June 2026, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.t02.htm>.

- Between June 2025 and June 2026, ground beef prices rose 12.4%.
- Between June 2025 and June 2026, apple prices rose 7.1%.
- Between June 2025 and June 2026, fish prices rose 6.3%.
- Between June 2025 and June 2026, citrus fruit prices rose 6.3%.
- Between June 2025 and June 2026, canned fruits and vegetable prices rose 5.0%.
- Between June 2025 and June 2026, bread prices rose 3.9%.

Answer: If confirmed, I will use the Office of Economic Policy’s resources to study and evaluate all available economic data, including the data provided above.

Question 11:

Please explain what recommendations you would make to the Treasury Secretary, if confirmed, on how to reduce grocery costs.

Answer: If confirmed, I look forward to providing recommendations when asked.

Question 12:

The administration has repeatedly blamed the Biden administration for inflation. But President Trump said in February 2026 that this is his economy now.²⁸

- Who is responsible for current inflation levels?
- At what point does this administration own the inflation numbers?

Answer: Inflation is influenced by monetary policy, fiscal policy, supply-side conditions, and global factors, many of which operate with significant lags. The inflationary episode that began in spring 2021 reflected the interaction of unprecedented fiscal expansion with the actions of the Federal Reserve. If confirmed, my role is to provide objective economic analysis.

Question 13:

²⁸ NBC, “Trump accepts ownership of the current economy: ‘I’m very proud of it,’” Jonathan Allen, February 8, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-accepts-ownership-economy-proud-rcna257544>.

Federal Reserve Chair Warsh has said he prefers to look at trimmed mean inflation.²⁹

- Do you agree? Why or why not?
- What is your preferred measure of inflation?

Answer: If confirmed, I will examine the full suite of available data regarding inflation.

Question 14:

President Trump said in April 2025 that China would “probably eat the tariffs.”³⁰ More than one year later, do you believe that President Trump’s prediction that China would “eat the tariffs” was right? Please explain.

- If not, who’s paying for the tariffs?

Answer: The economic incidence of tariffs depends on various factors, including the relative elasticities of supply and demand. These factors vary across products and trading partners. If confirmed, I will provide the Secretary with rigorous analysis of tariff incidence.

Question 15:

Several studies have concluded that Trump’s chaotic tariffs have contributed to higher prices for consumers. Goldman Sachs found that U.S. consumers are absorbing roughly 55% of costs from the President’s tariffs.³¹ Research from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York concluded that American businesses and consumers have paid for 90% of Trump’s tariffs.³² The Congressional Budget Office published estimates that only 5% of Trump’s tariffs was absorbed by foreign exporters—and that, of the share absorbed in the

²⁹ Reuters, “Fed Chair Warsh’s preferred inflation measure is cooling. A big pinch of salt is advised,” Ann Saphir, May 28, 2026, <https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/fed-chair-warshs-preferred-inflation-measure-is-cooling-big-pinch-salt-is-2026-05-28/>,

³⁰ The Hill, “Trump says China ‘probably will eat those tariffs,’” Tara Suter, April 29, 2025, <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5273940-trump-china-tariff-policies/>.

³¹ NBC News, “U.S. consumers bearing more than half the cost of tariffs so far, Goldman Sachs says,” Rob Wile, October 13, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/consumer/us-consumers-bearing-half-cost-tariffs-far-goldman-sachs-says-rcna237283>.

³² Federal Reserve Bank of New York, “Who Is Paying for the 2025 U.S. Tariffs?,” Mary Amiti, Chris Flanagan, Sebastian Heise, and David E. Weinstein, February 12, 2026, <https://libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/2026/02/who-is-paying-for-the-2025-u-s-tariffs/>; Bloomberg, “Hassett Attacks NY Fed for Study on Tariff Burden Hitting US,” Jonnelle Marte, February 18, 2026, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-02-18/hassett-attacks-ny-fed-for-study-on-tariffs-hurting-us-companies-mls3r5yi>.

United States, 70% would be passed on to American consumers in the near term.³³ And the non-partisan Tax Foundation estimated that Trump's tariffs cost the average American household \$1,000 in 2025 alone.³⁴

- Do you agree with the overwhelming number of studies that show families are paying for the tariffs? Explain.

Answer: Academic literature on tariff incidence is evolving and the results vary depending on methodology, time horizon, and the specific tariff in question. If confirmed, I commit to examining all available evidence rigorously and providing the Secretary with my best analysis. Recent research by the Minneapolis Fed indicates that the tariffs are not significantly contributing to goods inflation.

Question 16:

Has President Trump's war in Iran increased inflation?

Answer: Geopolitical events can affect energy markets and through them broader price levels. If confirmed, I look forward to providing rigorous analysis of these dynamics to the Secretary.

Question 17:

Has President Trump's war in Iran increased gas prices?

Answer: The price of barrel of oil has fallen significantly since its cyclical peak. If confirmed I look forward to providing rigorous analysis of energy market dynamics to the Secretary.

Question 18:

Gas prices increased more than 21% in the first month after Trump began his war in Iran—the highest one-month increase on record.³⁵ And that sent energy prices rising nearly 11% in March, the highest monthly increase since 2005.³⁶ In response to that data, President Trump said, “we’re having some fake inflation because of the fuel, the energy

³³ Congressional Budget Office, “The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2026 to 2036,” February 2026, <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/62105>.

³⁴ Tax Foundation, “Tariff Tracker: Impact of Trump Tariffs & Trade War by the Numbers,” Erica York and Alex Durante, February 23, 2026, <https://taxfoundation.org/research/all/federal/trump-tariffs-trade-war/>.

³⁵ CNN, “US inflation tripled last month on record spike in gas prices,” April 10, 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/04/10/business/live-news/us-cpi-march-inflation-iran>

³⁶ Forbes, “Iran War’s Inflation Impact: Energy Prices Surged In Largest Gain Since 2005,” Ty Roush, April 10, 2026, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tylerroush/2026/04/10/iran-wars-inflation-impact-consumer-prices-skyrocketedlast-month-as-fuel-costs-surged/>.

prices.”³⁷ Do you agree with President Trump that the increase in energy prices is “fake inflation”?

Answer: See answer to question 17.

Question 19:

About one-third of the world’s fertilizer inputs transit through the Strait of Hormuz.³⁸ What are the consequences of that amount of fertilizer being taken off the global market?

- Does it raise fertilizer costs?
- Does it reduce fertilizer supply?
- Does it increase grocery costs?

Answer: Disruptions to global commodity flows can affect input costs in agriculture. If confirmed, I look forward to reviewing the full range of factors affecting food prices and supply chain dynamics.

Question 20:

NEC Director Kevin Hassett recently said, “You’ve got gas in a truck moving stuff to Walmart, and the gas is more expensive. So the stuff at Walmart has to be more expensive, too.”³⁹ Do you agree with Director Hassett that the war is raising costs on consumer goods that are transported by freight?

Answer: Energy costs are an input to transportation, which is an input to the cost of consumer goods. This can impact relative prices. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Secretary’s economic team to study these issues.

Question 21:

³⁷ New York Times, “In Las Vegas, Trump Brushes Off Rising Fuel Prices,” Chris Cameron, April 16, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/16/us/politics/trump-taxes-fuel-las-vegas.html>.

³⁸ NBC News, “The Iran war’s looming economic threat: Higher food prices,” Allie Canal, March 13, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/consumer/iran-war-fertilizer-prices-food-rcna263336>.

³⁹ CNBC, Squawk Box, “Watch CNBC’s full interview with White House National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett,” June 29, 2026, <https://www.cnbc.com/video/2026/06/29/watch-cnbc-full-interview-with-white-house-national-economic-council-director-kevin-hassett.html>.

Mortgage rates had fallen below 6% in February 2026.⁴⁰ Today they are over 6.5%.⁴¹ What has caused mortgage rates to increase by nearly a half percentage point since February 2026?

Answer: Mortgage rates reflect expectations about future monetary policy, inflation, economic growth, and the supply and demand for Treasury securities. If confirmed, I look forward to advising on housing market conditions.

Question 22:

The Producer Price Index was 5.5% in June 2026—nearly two percentage points higher since January 2025.⁴² What’s contributing to the surge in wholesale prices?

- Do you believe that will spill over into consumer prices and inflation? Explain.

Answer: Producer prices reflect the prices received by domestic producers. The degree to which wholesale price changes pass through to consumer prices depends on competitive dynamics, demand conditions, and business margins. If confirmed, I will monitor these dynamics closely.

Labor Market

Question 23:

Annual job growth in 2025 was the weakest since 2003, outside of recessions.⁴³ What policies contributed to the labor market’s weakened growth in 2025?

Answer: Labor market dynamics reflect multiple factors including demographic and immigration trends. If confirmed, I will provide the Secretary with thorough analysis of labor market conditions.

Question 24:

⁴⁰ Wall Street Journal, “Mortgage Rates Today, February 26, 2026: Rates Fall Under 6%,” Miranda Marquit, February 26, 2026, <https://www.wsj.com/buyside/personal-finance/mortgage/mortgage-rates-today-2-26-2026>

⁴¹ Freddie Mac, “Mortgage Rates,” July 16, 2026, <https://www.freddiemac.com/pmms>

⁴² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Economic News Release, Producer Price Index, “Table A. Monthly and 12-month percent changes in selected final demand price indexes, seasonally adjusted,” June 2026, https://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/ppi_07152026.htm.

⁴³ Bloomberg, “US Wraps Up Worst Non-Recession Year for Hiring Since 2003,” Molly Smith and Chris Anstey, February 11, 2026, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-02-11/us-wraps-up-worst-non-recession-year-for-hiring-since-2003>.

Experts have warned that the breakeven employment growth rate may be closer to zero as a result of Trump's immigration policies and aging population.⁴⁴

- What do you think the breakeven rate is?
- Do you think a lower breakeven rate affects wage growth and job mobility?

Answer: The breakeven employment rate reflects the number of jobs required to keep the unemployment rate steady and is affected by both immigration and demographic factors. The status of the breakeven rate is the subject of ongoing research. The Dallas Federal Reserve has published estimates that indicate the current breakeven employment rate may be lower than it has been in the past. I am not aware of evidence that the breakeven rate directly affects wage growth and job mobility. If confirmed I look forward to providing the Secretary with rigorous analysis of labor market dynamics.

Question 25:

The President's immigration policies are reducing labor supply.⁴⁵ If confirmed, how would you evaluate the effect of the President's immigration policies on labor market dynamics and employment outcomes?

Answer: If confirmed, I will use rigorous economic analysis to evaluate the effects of all policies on the labor market, including immigration policy. My role is to advise the Secretary on the economic impact of proposed and enacted policies.

Question 26:

In a speech last year, Federal Reserve Governor Waller said, "Tariff effects on households and businesses also will weigh on employment. All of this is consistent with what my business contacts are telling me, which is that they are postponing investment and hiring because of the uncertainty about how tariffs will affect their input costs and demand for their products."⁴⁶ And research from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City estimates that job growth may have been 19,000 higher per month if not for Trump's sweeping tariffs.⁴⁷

⁴⁴ Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, "Declining Immigration and an Aging Population Are Reducing Breakeven Employment Growth," Yusuf Mercan, October 15, 2025, <https://www.kansascityfed.org/research/economic-bulletin/declining-immigration-and-an-aging-population-are-reducing-breakeven-employment-growth/>.

⁴⁵ National Bureau of Economic Research, NBER Working Paper Series, "Labor Market Impacts of ICE Activity in Trump 2.0," Elizabeth Cox and Chloe N. East, April 2026, <https://doi.org/10.3386/w35129>.

⁴⁶ Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, "Let's Get On With It," Speech by Governor Waller, August 28, 2025, <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/speech/waller20250828a.htm>.

⁴⁷ Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, "Higher Tariffs Might Have Created Headwinds to Employment Growth in 2025," Johannes Matschke and Mariia Dzholos, December 12, 2025,

- Do you agree that Trump’s chaotic tariffs deterred businesses from hiring? Please provide empirical evidence to support your claim.

Answer: Policy uncertainty from any source can affect business investment and hiring decisions. The President's trade agenda addresses both economic and national security concerns that should be taken into account when evaluating the long-term strength and stability of the American economy. If confirmed, I will provide the Secretary with thorough analysis of these labor market and trade dynamics.

Question 27:

The President recently said that quote, “African American unemployment is now doing better than it’s ever done.”⁴⁸ Do you agree with him? Explain.

Answer: If confirmed, I will rely on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to assess labor market conditions across all demographic groups.

Question 28:

Compared to January 2025, 344,000 fewer Black Americans are employed.⁴⁹ What policies have contributed to fewer Black Americans being employed under President Trump? Explain.

Answer: Please see answer to question 27.

Question 29:

Youth unemployment is surging. Workers ages 16–19 saw their unemployment rate jump 2.9 percentage points under President Trump—from 11.8% in January 2025 to 14.6% in June 2026.⁵⁰ For Black teens, the picture is even grimmer: unemployment has nearly tripled since Trump took office, from 9.8% to a staggering 26.8%.⁵¹ Young workers are

<https://www.kansascityfed.org/research/economic-bulletin/higher-tariffs-might-have-created-headwinds-to-employment-growth-in-2025/>.

⁴⁸ CNN, “Even Trump says he doesn’t know ‘where the hell’ his own false claim about Black unemployment came from,” Daniel Dale, June 6, 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/06/06/politics/fact-check-trump-black-unemployment>.

⁴⁹ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Employment Level - Black or African American,” <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/LNS12000006>.

⁵⁰ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Unemployment Rate - 16-19 Yrs.,” <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/LNS14000012>.

⁵¹ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Unemployment Rate - 16-19 Yrs., Black or African American,” <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/LNS14000018>

often the first casualties of weakening labor demand and are susceptible to bearing the brunt.⁵²

- What are the macroeconomic impacts of higher youth unemployment?
- How does higher youth unemployment affect an individual's long-term economic outcomes, including education and employment?

Answer: Please see answer to question 27.

Question 30:

Labor force participation fell to 61.5% in June. Outside of the COVID-19 pandemic, that is the lowest rate in 50 years.⁵³

- What are the macroeconomic impacts of lower labor force participation? Explain.
- What factors have contributed to lower labor force participation? Explain.

Answer: Please see answer to question 27.

Question 31:

Prime-age labor force participation fell to 83.3% in June – its lowest rate since December 2023.⁵⁴ The rate fell 0.6 percentage points in the month of June alone, one of the sharpest monthly declines on record.⁵⁵

- What are the macroeconomic impacts of lower labor force participation for workers ages 25-54? Explain.
- What factors have contributed to lower prime-age labor force participation? Specifically, what contributed to the sharp monthly decrease in June? Explain.

⁵² Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, "Young Adults and the Softening U.S. Labor Market: A Warning Sign?", William M. Rodgers III and Alice L. Kassens, December 15, 2025, <https://www.stlouisfed.org/on-the-economy/2025/dec/young-adults-softening-us-labor-market-warning-sign>

⁵³ CNBC, "Job Seekers giving up: Labor force participation rates fall to lowest in 50 years, outside of Covid era," Jeff Cox, July 2, 2026, <https://www.cnbc.com/2026/07/02/job-seekers-giving-up-labor-force-participation-rate-falls-to-lowest-in-50-years-outside-of-covid-era.html>.

⁵⁴ *Id.*

⁵⁵ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Labor Force Participation Rate - 25-54 Yrs.," <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/LNS11300060>.

Answer: Please see answer to question 27.

Household Debt and Consumer Spending

Question 32:

NEC Director Hassett said, “[t]he consumer is really, really firing on all cylinders...Credit card spending is through the roof, [they’re] spending more on gasoline.”⁵⁶

- Do you agree with Director Hassett that the mark of a strong economy includes credit card spending being “through the roof” and people “spending more on gasoline.” Explain.

Answer: Consumer spending is one of many indicators of economic conditions. If confirmed, I will examine the full range of indicators including savings rates, real income growth, and balance sheet health to provide a comprehensive assessment for the Secretary.

Question 33:

Secretary Bessent—in response to record low consumer sentiment—claimed that, “the consumer, while they may be sounding grim, is actually quite buoyant” and that Americans “in their heart of hearts, they feel good.”⁵⁷

- Do you agree with Secretary Bessent that consumers “in their heart of hearts, they feel good”? Explain.

Answer: “Hard” data, such as consumer spending data reflects the revealed preferences and forward-looking assessments of consumers. Strong consumer spending indicates that consumers have confidence in the present and future state of the economy. “Hard” and “soft” economic data (such as surveys) sometimes diverge. I prefer using “hard” data to assess households. Consumers have dealt with scarring from historically high levels of inflation under President Biden which may be impacting this “soft” data. If confirmed I will examine the full range of available data to assess household economic conditions.

Question 34:

⁵⁶ Yahoo! Finance, “Hassett brags that credit card spending is ‘through the roof’ — as delinquencies climb and farm bankruptcies jump 46%,” Laura Boast, May 12, 2026, <https://finance.yahoo.com/economy/articles/hassett-brags-credit-card-spending-141500850.html>

⁵⁷ Post on X by FactPost, April 16, 2026, <https://x.com/factpostnews/status/2044855692721377418?s=20>.

Household debt is at record highs.⁵⁸ Delinquency rates for credit card loans, auto loans, and student loans are near their highest levels since 2010.⁵⁹

- Why are delinquencies on the rise?
- If confirmed, what recommendations would you make to the Treasury Secretary to address rising delinquencies.

Answer: The delinquency rate on credit card loans and all consumer loans broadly at commercial banks are, as of the most recently available data, below the level they were throughout 2024, the final year under President Biden, and one year prior, 2025 Q1.

Question 35:

According to data from Moody's Analytics, the top 20% of American earners account for nearly 60% of all personal spending, up from 54% before the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁰

- What are the macroeconomic implications of concentrated consumer spending?
- If confirmed, will you commit the Treasury to conducting an analysis on the growing concentration of consumer spending among the wealthiest households and evaluate its implications for economic growth and the financial well-being of American families?

Answer: The Moody's data shows that the share of personal spending accounted for by the top 20% of American earners declined substantially under the first Trump Administration and then increased under the Biden Administration. The 2025 consumer expenditure survey has not yet been published by the BLS, so it is too early to make an assessment as to trends in the second Trump administration so far, though strong wage growth in nonsupervisory occupations and a similar policy mix to the first Trump administration is likely to again lift workers at the lower end of the distribution. If confirmed, I will examine the full range of indicators to present a comprehensive picture of the financial well-being of American families.

Question 36:

For each of the following policies, please provide an analysis of their impact on wealth and income inequality:

⁵⁸ Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Center for Microeconomic Studies, "HOUSEHOLD DEBT AND CREDIT REPORT (Q1 2026)," <https://www.newyorkfed.org/microeconomics/hhdc>.

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ CNBC, "Wealth inequality and the 'K-shaped' economy are more striking than ever, data shows," Alex Haring, January 30, 2026, <https://www.cnbc.com/2026/01/30/wealth-inequality-k-shaped-economy-united-states-consumer-spending-trump.html>.

- Tax cuts enacted by the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*.
- Tariff policies and their effects on consumer prices and wages.
- Cuts to Medicaid and SNAP (food stamps) enacted by the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*.
- Changes to labor and employee protections, including overtime pay requirements.
- Rollbacks of consumer protection regulations.
- Healthcare policy changes, including efforts to repeal or weaken the Affordable Care Act.
- Housing policy, including any changes to housing development inputs, affordable housing programs, rental assistance, or federally related mortgages.
- Changes to federal student loan repayment and cancellation programs, as enacted by the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*.

Answer: The President's economic agenda is designed to promote broad-based economic growth, increase opportunity, and improve the standard of living for all Americans. If confirmed, I will provide economic analysis of policies within the Treasury's purview.

Gross Domestic Product

Question 37:

The Tax Foundation projects the OBBBA will increase long-run GDP by 0.7% but increase federal deficits by \$3.3 trillion on a dynamic basis over the decade.⁶¹ Is 0.7% GDP growth worth \$3.3 trillion in additional debt?

Answer: Analysis from the Council of Economic Advisors (CEA) suggests that the Working Families Tax Cuts will increase long-run GDP by 2.4 to 2.7%. This analysis also suggests that the full package of Trump Administration policies – including OBBBA along with deregulatory, energy, and tariff policies – will reduce primary federal deficits by \$5.5 trillion over a decade.

Question 38:

⁶¹ Tax Foundation, "One Big Beautiful Bill Act Tax Policies: Details and Analysis," Garrett Watson et al., February 10, 2026, <https://taxfoundation.org/research/all/federal/big-beautiful-bill-senate-gop-tax-plan/>.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the One Big Beautiful Bill will add \$4.7 trillion to the national debt through 2035.⁶² What are the risks of passing tax legislation that adds \$4.7 trillion to the national debt?

Answer: CEA analysis suggests that the full package of Trump Administration policies – including the Working Families Tax Cuts along with deregulatory, energy, and tariff policies – will reduce the extent to which the U.S. is running deficits.

Question 39:

GDP growth in this administration has been uneven, with some quarters being negative. Why has GDP growth been volatile under this Administration? Explain.

Answer: Quarterly GDP growth can be affected by temporary factors including inventory dynamics, trade flows, and statistical noise. Further, Q4 2025 GDP was impacted by the longest government shutdown on record which mechanically decreased the quarterly reading by ~1.0 p.p. directly from government payrolls with further effects from government contracts and other spillovers. If confirmed, I will focus on the trajectory of underlying economic fundamentals and look forward to utilizing Treasury's analytical resources to provide rigorous analysis of the economy.

Question 40:

Administration officials have regularly said that GDP growth will soon exceed 5 or 6%.⁶³ GDP growth was 2.1% in Q1 of this year.⁶⁴ Do you think GDP growth will soon reach 5 or 6%? What has to change from Q1 for that to happen?

Answer: The latest (third estimate) of GDP growth by the Bureau of Economic analysis shows that the economy expanded at a 2.1% annual rate in 2026 Q1 not 1.2%. The President's pro-growth policies, including tax reform, deregulation, and expansion energy production, are designed to lift America's economic potential. If confirmed, I will provide the Secretary with forecasts grounded in rigorous economic analysis.

⁶² Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, "OBBA Dynamic Score Comes In at \$4.7 Trillion," March 11, 2026, <https://www.crfb.org/blogs/obbba-dynamic-score-comes-47-trillion>

⁶³ Reuters, "Lutnick expects US first quarter growth above 5%, warns EU against retaliation," January 20, 2026, <https://www.reuters.com/business/davos/lutnick-expects-us-first-quarter-growth-above-5-warns-eu-against-retaliation-2026-01-20/>

⁶⁴ U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, "GDP (Third Estimate), Industries, Corporate Profits, State GDP, and State Personal Income, 1st Quarter 2026", News Release, June 25, 2026, <https://www.bea.gov/news/2026/gdp-third-estimate-industries-corporate-profits-state-gdp-and-state-personal-income-1st>.

One Big Beautiful Bill and Tax Policy

Question 41:

OBBBA will reduce SNAP participation by 2.4 million people per month over the decade.⁶⁵ Those figures represent people losing food assistance. Meanwhile, the NY Fed has found that food insecurity is increasing.⁶⁶

- What are the economic consequences of increases to food insecurity?
- If confirmed, what recommendation would you make to the Treasury Secretary to address growing food insecurity?
- Do you think that SNAP can help alleviate food insecurity?

Answer: The Administration's SNAP reforms promote work, improve program integrity, and preserve resources for eligible Americans who need assistance. The Working Families Tax Cuts provide the groundwork for a durable solution with policies that promote higher real wages, affordable food and energy, and a strong labor market.

Question 42:

Congressional Republicans are discussing a third reconciliation bill this Congress. If confirmed, what tax policy priorities would you recommend the Treasury Secretary advocate for in such a bill?

Answer: While any tax policy is a matter for Congress to consider, if confirmed, I would recommend building upon the important America-first, pro-family, and pro-growth tax policies in the Working Families Tax Cuts.

Health Care

Question 43:

⁶⁵ Center for American Progress, "The Big 'Beautiful' Bill's Historic SNAP Cuts Could Lead To 70,000 Avoidable Deaths," press release, <https://www.americanprogress.org/press/release-the-big-beautiful-bills-historic-snap-cuts-could-lead-to-70000-avoidable-deaths/>.

⁶⁶ CNBC, "Low-income households face 'remarkable' rise in food insecurity in K-shaped economy: New York Fed," Jessica Dickler, May 27, 2026, <https://www.cnbc.com/2026/05/27/new-york-fed-food-insecurity-worsens-amid-k-shaped-economic-divide.html>.

Between June 2025 and June 2026, medical care service costs rose 2.9%.⁶⁷ The 154 million people with employer-sponsored health insurance faced the largest premium increase in over a decade, with costs for family coverage reaching nearly \$27,000 in 2025—up six percent from 2024—and no relief in sight.⁶⁸ After Congressional Republicans failed to extend the *Affordable Care Act's* (ACA's) enhanced premium tax credits, health insurance premiums more than doubled, on average, for the 24 million Americans who get their health insurance through the ACA marketplaces.⁶⁹ As a result, health insurance premiums are now more expensive than the mortgage for many families.⁷⁰ And the monthly Medicare Part B premium jumped 9.7% from 2025 to 2026, sending monthly premiums above \$200 for the first time.⁷¹

- If confirmed, what recommendations would you make to the President to lower health care costs?

Answer: Healthcare costs reflect systemic inefficiencies including regulatory complexity, lack of price transparency, and insufficient competition. The president has taken steps to lower prices, increase transparency in the cost of medication and treatment, and increase competition. If confirmed, I will advise the Secretary on further market-based reforms to promote competition, transparency, and innovation in health care delivery.

Student Loans

Question 44:

⁶⁷ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Economic News Release, Consumer Price Index, “Table 2. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U. S. city average, by detailed expenditure category,” June 2026, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.t02.htm>.

⁶⁸ The Century Foundation, “It’s Official: Americans Will Pay Much More for All Types of Health Coverage in 2026—Including Medicare,” Jeanne Lambrew, November 19, 2025, <https://tcf.org/content/commentary/its-official-americans-will-pay-much-more-for-all-types-of-health-coverage-in-2026-including-medicare/>; Kaiser Family Foundation, “Annual Family Premiums for Employer Coverage Rise 6% in 2025, Nearing \$27,000, with Workers Paying \$6,850 Toward Premiums Out of Their Paychecks,” news release, October 22, 2025, <https://www.kff.org/health-costs/annual-family-premiums-for-employer-coverage-rise-6-in-2025-nearing-27000-with-workers-paying-6850-toward-premiums-out-of-their-paychecks/>.

⁶⁹ Kaiser Family Foundation, “ACA Marketplace Premium Payments Would More than Double on Average Next Year if Enhanced Premium Tax Credits Expire,” Justin Lo, Larry Levitt, Jared Ortaliza, and Cynthia Cox, September 30, 2025, <https://www.kff.org/health-costs/2025-employer-health-benefits-survey/https://www.kff.org/affordable-care-act/aca-marketplace-premium-payments-would-more-than-double-on-average-next-year-if-enhanced-premium-tax-credits-expire/>.

⁷⁰ Wall Street Journal, “Health Insurance Is Now More Expensive Than the Mortgage for These Americans,” Rachel Louise Ensign, January 26, 2026, <https://www.wsj.com/health/healthcare/aca-health-insurance-cost-subsidies-expire-37a595a9>.

⁷¹ The Century Foundation, “It’s Official: Americans Will Pay Much More for All Types of Health Coverage in 2026—Including Medicare,” Jeanne Lambrew, November 19, 2025, <https://tcf.org/content/commentary/its-official-americans-will-pay-much-more-for-all-types-of-health-coverage-in-2026-including-medicare/>.

The nation is currently experiencing an unprecedented wave of student loan defaults and delinquencies, which has resulted in widespread credit score declines and corresponding losses of access to credit for affected borrowers.⁷²

- What are the macroeconomic effects of rising student loan defaults and delinquencies? Explain.
- What are the downstream consequences of credit score declines, including reduced access to credit, for affected borrowers? Explain.
- If confirmed, how would you recommend the Treasury Secretary mitigate these economic impacts? Explain.

Answer: The Treasury-Education partnership is restoring orderly repayment, borrower communication, lawful rehabilitation pathways, and operational accountability so borrowers can reenter the credit system while taxpayers are protected.

Question 45:

Student loan debt makes it harder for people to qualify for mortgages, to buy homes, to start small businesses.⁷³ Do you agree that Americans with student loan debt are unable to participate in the economy to the full extent that they might be able to—and that that creates a drag on the economy?

Answer: The Treasury-Education partnership is restoring orderly repayment, borrower communication, lawful rehabilitation pathways, and operational accountability so borrowers can reenter the credit system while taxpayers are protected.

Social Security

Question 46:

If confirmed, would you recommend any of the following actions to address the solvency of Social Security: raising the retirement age, means testing benefits, or limiting access to auxiliary benefits?

Answer: Social Security is a vital program that provides a foundation of income security for American retirees. The President has been clear about his commitment to protecting Social Security.

⁷² New York Times, “Record Number of Student Loan Borrowers Are in Delinquency and Default,” Stacy Cowley, March 20, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/20/business/student-loan-delinquency-default.html>.

⁷³ Education Data Initiative, “Student Loan Debt & Homeownership,” Melanie Hanson, June 5, 2026, <https://educationdata.org/student-loan-debt-homeownership>

Question 47:

Americans who retire are facing high costs for medications, medical care, long term care, food, and energy. These costs come as 40% of Americans do not have a retirement account and 69% of nonretirees worry they have insufficient funds to retire.⁷⁴ These fears are not unfounded as the number of seniors living in poverty, under the supplemental poverty rate, has increased to 14.2% (or about one in seven) following a decrease during COVID.⁷⁵

- If confirmed, what would you recommend to the Treasury Secretary for how he should address American's concerns about being able to afford to retire.

Answer: Economic growth is the most effective means of improving retirement security for all Americans. If confirmed, I will advise the Secretary on policies that promote growth, reduce the cost of living, and strengthen the foundations of retirement security.

Artificial Intelligence

Question 48:

How is Artificial Intelligence (AI) impacting the labor market currently?

- In your opinion, how will AI impact the labor market in the long-term?

Answer: AI is in the early stages of integration across the economy. If confirmed, I will ensure the Office of Economic Policy monitors AI dynamics closely.

Question 49:

There are signs of weakening performance in the private credit market. These private credit lenders are significant sources of financing for the boom in the build out of hyperscalers in communities across the country. But if AI companies are unable to increase revenues they may risk default on the debt they owe to these private credit lenders, who in turn borrowed from banks and insurers.

⁷⁴ Gallup, "What Percentage of Americans Have a Retirement Savings Account?" June 2, 2025, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/691202/percentage-americans-retirement-savings-account.aspx>; Gallup, "Nonretirees' Worry Remains High," Megan Brenan, May 6, 2026, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/709319/nonretirees-worry-remains-high.aspx>.

⁷⁵ KFF, "How Many Older Adults Live in Poverty?" Nancy Ochieng et al., May 21, 2024, <https://www.kff.org/medicare/how-many-older-adults-live-in-poverty/>.

- What is your understanding of the potential risk to the economy and the financial system if or when this data center boom goes bust?

Answer: Private credit consists primarily of closed-end funds which by design is not runnable. Financial stability has long been a research interest of mine. If confirmed, I look forward to utilizing Treasury’s analytical resources to investigate this topic.

Question 50:

Further causing concern about the use of private credit fueling data center build out is that these private credit investors aren’t just using their own money to fuel these data center deals. These private credit investors are also holding people’s hard earned money, like their pensions, or insurance premiums—and soon, given the President’s executive order and Department of Labor rule, their retirement accounts. Hardworking Americans may end up footing the bill for these risky investments.

- What will you do to ensure everyday Americans are not financially harmed if or when these data center companies and the private credit investors go bust?
- How will you monitor the flow of institutional capital, including pensions, retirement accounts, and insurance, into alternative assets like private credit to assess the financial risks of Americans’ exposure to the data center investment boom?

Answer: Monitoring systemic financial risks is primarily the responsibility of the financial regulatory agencies and FSOC. If confirmed, I will ensure that the Office of Economic Policy contributes economic analysis to inform these assessments when appropriate.

Question 51:

By some estimates, AI investment accounted for roughly half of overall GDP growth in the first quarter of 2026.⁷⁶ Do you think there are risks associated with GDP growth being highly concentrated in one sector?

Answer: There has been a notable pick up in investment since President Trump took office, and especially following the passage of the Working Families Tax Cuts. While AI is certainly a benefit it is not the only source of growth. Per the most recent (third estimate) of Q1 GDP, we are also seeing strong gains in productivity growth broadly, durable goods manufacturing and construction, along with other sectors of the economy. Recent retail sales, which have been exceeding expectations also point to a healthy consumer. Wage

⁷⁶ Wall Street Journal, “AI Investment Boosted Economic Growth, While Consumers Tapped the Brakes,” Harriet Torry, April 30, 2026, <https://www.wsj.com/economy/central-banking/u-s-economy-grew-at-2-rate-in-first-quarter-6e0c18cc>

growth has been strong and broad based across sectors, and is up in real terms for all private sector workers since President Trump took office.

Question 52:

Do you agree that AI is driving up both investment and consumer demand? Does increasing investment and consumer demand put upward pressure or downward pressure on inflation?

Answer: Investment can expand productive capacity and thereby reduce inflationary pressure over time, even as it adds to demand in the short run. The net effect depends on the nature and timeline of the investment. If confirmed, I will provide rigorous analysis of these dynamics.

Question 53:

Administration officials and Fed Chair Kevin Warsh have argued that AI will be disinflationary and thus boost the case for interest rate cuts.⁷⁷ Do you agree with Fed Chair Warsh that AI is disinflationary? Please explain.

Answer: Investment can expand productive capacity and thereby reduce inflationary pressure over time, even as it adds to demand in the short run. The net effect depends on the nature and timeline of the investment. If confirmed, I will provide rigorous analysis of these dynamics.

Financial Regulation

Question 54:

What do you believe are the top risks to the stability of the U.S. financial system?

Answer: Monitoring systemic financial risks is primarily the responsibility of the financial regulatory agencies and FSOC. If confirmed, I will ensure that the Treasury's contributes economic analysis to inform these assessments when appropriate.

International Economics and Exchange Rates

Question 55:

⁷⁷ Forbes, "Kevin Warsh's New Playbook: AI, Productivity, And A Deflation Bet," Jon Markman, February 2, 2026, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jonmarkman/2026/02/02/kevin-warshs-new-playbook-ai-productivity-and-a-deflation-bet/>.

The Treasury Department's January 2026 Foreign Exchange Report found China's renminbi to be "substantially undervalued" and noted that Chinese authorities' lack of transparency "will not preclude Treasury from designating China" as a currency manipulator.⁷⁸ China had a record \$1.2 trillion trade surplus in 2025 and the International Monetary Fund's finding that the renminbi is undervalued by approximately 16 percent.⁷⁹

- What are the macroeconomic effects of China's renminbi being "substantially undervalued"?

Answer: A substantially undervalued renminbi subsidizes Chinese exports, suppresses Chinese consumption, expands global imbalances, and disadvantages American workers and manufacturers. Those effects reinforce the case for President Trump's reciprocal trade policy, greater exchange-rate transparency, stronger supply chains, and targeted measures against China's nonmarket practices.

Nomination

Question 56:

During or leading up to the selection of your nomination, did you discuss Project 2025 with any officials directly or associated with the Heritage Foundation? If so, please explain.

Answer: No.

Question 57:

Please provide a comprehensive list of the people who approached you about joining the administration.

Answer: President Trump nominated me for this role, and I was approached through the appropriate White House personnel process.

⁷⁸ U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Macroeconomic and Foreign Exchange Policies of Major Trading Partners of the United States," January 29 2026, p. 24, <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/January-2026-FX-Report.pdf>.

⁷⁹ Id.; The Economist, "Why the IMF's newest report finds that the yuan is undervalued," February 19, 2026, <https://www.economist.com/china/2026/02/19/why-the-imfs-newest-report-finds-that-the-yuan-is-undervalued>.

Question 58:

Did any person provide advice to you, oral or written, on your responses to these questions? If so, please provide a comprehensive list of the individuals or organizations that provided assistance.

Answer: The answers are my own, but my responses to these questions were reviewed under the customary practices of recent administrations, both Republican and Democratic.

Congressional Oversight and Whistleblower Protection

Question 59:

If confirmed, will you commit to fully complying with all information requests from me and responding to those requests in a timely manner?

Answer: If confirmed, I will respond to congressional requests for information in a timely and substantive manner, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, privilege, confidentiality, and the responsibilities of the Department.

Question 60:

If confirmed, do you intend to respond to congressional information requests differently depending on who is making the request?

Answer: No. I will apply the same institutional standards to congressional requests regardless of the member making the request, subject to applicable law, committee jurisdiction, privilege, and confidentiality.

Question 61:

If confirmed, will you commit to complying with any federal protections for whistleblowers?

Answer: If confirmed, I will comply with all applicable federal laws.

Public Integrity

Question 62:

Will you commit to recuse yourself from any matters involving your former employers or clients for 4 years while serving as an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury?

Answer: If confirmed, I will comply with the law and my ethics agreement.

Question 63:

For at least 4 years after leaving the U.S. Treasury, will you not seek employment or compensation from (1) any entity that you personally and substantially interacted with in your role at the U.S. Treasury and (2) from any entity that lobbies the U.S. Treasury?

Answer: If confirmed, I will comply with the law and my ethics agreement.

Questions for the Record submitted to Sriprakash Kothari from Senator Warnock.

Question 1. American companies seeking to expand domestic manufacturing often must rely on imported components or inputs for which U.S. production capacity does not exist. In evaluating the economic effects of tariffs, how should Treasury distinguish between tariffs on finished imported products and tariffs on inputs used by American companies to design, assemble, distribute, and support products in the United States?

Answer: President Trump's trade policies is putting America first to reshore and rebuild our domestic manufacturing sector to ensure economic security and national security. Recent research from the Minneapolis Fed indicates that the tariffs are not significantly contributing to goods inflation.

Question 2. Do you agree that a tariff intended to encourage domestic manufacturing can have the opposite effect if it significantly raises the costs to an American company while a foreign competitor can import a finished competing product for much cheaper?

Answer: See answer to question 1.

Question 3. Building a new American manufacturing facility requires significant capital investment, equipment procurement and import, workforce training, and supply chain development. How is the administration helping businesses with these steps to move production to the United States? How does it consider tariffs in respect to this?

Answer: See answer to question 1.

Question 4. If tariffs impose significant costs on a company during the period in which it is financing and constructing new U.S. manufacturing capacity, how is Treasury making more capital available for the very reshoring investment trade policy is intended to encourage? What on-ramp incentives are being considered for the companies?

Answer: See answer to question 1.