

Prepared Statement of James J. Jochum
Nominee for Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration
Hearing Before the Senate Committee on Finance
June 26, 2003

Mr. Chairman, Senator Baucus and Members of the Committee.

It is an honor to appear before you today as the President's nominee for Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration. Just over two years ago I had the privilege to come before the Senate as the nominee for my current position, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration. At that time, Senator Grassley graciously introduced me to the Senate Banking Committee. So it is with pleasure that I now appear before the committee that he chairs. I want to thank Chairman Grassley for his longstanding friendship and support of me and my family.

I also thank Secretary Evans for having the confidence in me to ask me to take another post in the Department of Commerce. Working for President Bush and Secretary Evans these past two years has been an especially gratifying experience and one that I'll never forget.

Mr. Chairman, as this Committee knows the work of the agency that I have been nominated to lead, Import Administration, is critically important to the well being of our economy. While the benefits of free trade are well documented and, indeed, this Administration strongly supports a free trade agenda, it is clear that some of our trading partners continue to employ unfair trade practices. Accordingly, Congress has provided the Department of Commerce with the statutory tools to address those practices that threaten American jobs.

If confirmed by the Senate, I will faithfully execute the authority granted by Congress to protect the interests of American workers. I believe that my experience in implementing U.S. export controls the last two years has prepared me well to continue to lead a regulatory agency charged with administering the laws of the United States as Congress intended.

I also pledge to work closely with Congress, and particularly this committee, on the important issues that arise in implementing our trade remedy laws. As a former staff member in the Senate, and as a current member of the Administration, I know the importance of seeking your advice and counsel on decisions and policies that may affect your constituents.

In closing, I would like to again thank my wife Rita - and also my baby daughter, Elena - for their support of my desire to continue serving in the Administration. As we all know, the support and love of our families is the most important element of our success and I would not undertake this new challenge without them by my side.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for holding this hearing and I would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee.