

**Statement of Dean A. Pinkert  
For Commissioner, U.S. International Trade Commission  
Senate Finance Committee Nomination Hearing  
December 5, 2006**

**Mr. Chairman, Senator Baucus, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to appear before the Senate Finance Committee regarding my nomination for the position of Commissioner, U.S. International Trade Commission. I am deeply honored that the President has nominated me to serve on this independent commission whose decisions have a significant impact on the livelihoods of companies and workers all across America.**

**I would like to thank my family for the support it has always given me. I also wish to thank Senator Robert C. Byrd and his talented staff. Working for this legend of the United States Senate was truly a privilege. I am very grateful for the confidence he has shown in me over the years.**

**I note that I had the honor of assisting Senator Byrd on constitutional issues. Senator Byrd has always emphasized, and I will never forget, that Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution gives Congress the power to “regulate Commerce with foreign nations.” Congress makes the trade laws, and it is the job of the International Trade Commission to implement those laws fairly and in accordance with Congressional intent.**

**My father and grandfather were in the scrap industry in Chicago. I was born and raised there and received my undergraduate degree from Oberlin College, my J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law, and my L.L.M. from the London School of Economics. I have focused on international trade law since 1990, in the public and private sectors. I have handled matters involving all kinds of products, both agricultural and industrial, both exported and imported. I have litigated trade cases in domestic courts, before NAFTA panels, and before the World Trade Organization. In addition, I have performed a variety of administrative tasks, including working with U.S. Customs and Border Protection on the enforcement of our trade laws, and have participated as an advisor to the U.S. delegation in the negotiations to end the softwood lumber dispute. I am fortunate to have been guided at every step of my career by mentors and colleagues who see the law as a calling, and who maintain the highest ethical standards of our profession.**

**Over the course of my career, I have advised several international trade decision-makers on applying very complex laws to what are often hotly disputed facts. I now look forward to the opportunity to participate in the administrative process as a decision-maker. If confirmed, I can assure you that I will approach my new responsibilities as I have always approached my responsibilities, in a fair and impartial manner, with professionalism and courtesy.**

**I know the importance of the role played by the International Trade Commission. I**

**understand that Congress expects it to (1) make sound determinations and issue thorough and well-reasoned reports under the trade laws, (2) provide the President, the U.S. Trade Representative, and Congress with independent analysis, information, and support, and (3) maintain the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. I pledge to you that, if confirmed, I will devote every effort to accomplishing this multifaceted mission.**

**When she reaches adulthood, my young daughter will confront a world that is still more complex, and more interdependent, than that which we have come to know. The International Trade Commission stands at the intersection between the U.S. economy and the international economy, administering statutes and helping Congress and the Executive Branch to make policy decisions that will shape the world of our children and ensure that they enjoy abundant economic opportunity. I humbly thank you for considering my nomination to this important body.**