**Opening Statement of Christopher Abbott**
**Nominee for Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Enforcement and Compliance**
**Before the United States Senate Finance Committee**
**November 10, 2026**

Chairman Crapo, Ranking Member Wyden, and distinguished members of the Committee:

It is an honor to be with you here today. I am grateful to President Trump for my nomination, and to Secretary Lutnick and Under Secretary Kimmitt for their confidence in me to serve the American people as Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

I would like to recognize the people who have made this opportunity possible and who are here with me today.

First, my beautiful wife Natalie. Her love, encouragement, patience, and unwavering support have been instrumental throughout my career. I am incredibly fortunate to have her by my side, and I would not be here today without her.

Sitting next to her are my parents, John and Dawn. I like to think I inherited at least a portion of my mom's warmth, kindness, and compassion; and my dad's commitment to excellence in everything he does. And I know for sure that my sister and I inherited our parents' devotion to public service. My parents both spent their careers working at one of our national nuclear laboratories, helping keep our country safe and secure.

Growing up, I saw firsthand the dedication, integrity, and sense of duty that public service demands. My parents taught me that serving our country is a privilege—that the work we do should be bigger than ourselves. That commitment goes back generations in my family: my grandfathers were military veterans, and one became a union leader after earning multiple purple hearts; one of my grandmothers was a teacher and public-school administrator; the other was a stay-at-home mom. They each dedicated their work to improving their country or their community. This commitment to service is the reason I moved from Albuquerque, New Mexico to Washington, D.C. for college with the intent to join the federal workforce, and why I have never looked back—despite Washington's lack of green chile and breakfast burritos.

I am proud to have had multiple opportunities to follow in my family's footsteps as a public servant, including in a prior role at Commerce as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing. After that experience, I went to law school to become a trade lawyer, because I wanted to work on the issues that the Office of Enforcement and Compliance handles every day.

Prior to my nomination, I had the privilege to perform the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance. From that experience, I have

developed immense respect and admiration for the civil servants that fulfill E&C's mission of providing a level playing field for American workers and businesses.

With the world's best financial markets, brightest innovators, and a talented workforce, American companies can compete in any industry, as long as they can compete on fair terms. For nearly a century, America's trade-remedy laws have provided a level playing field for U.S. businesses by offsetting foreign subsidies and unfair pricing.

E&C is primarily responsible for administering these laws, which I am committed to doing fairly and forcefully. To that end, E&C has already made several changes in this Administration, including, for the first time ever, countervailing transnational subsidies and referring suspected customs evasion to CBP under the Enforce and Protect Act.

I am also committed to ensuring that our decisions are fair—both substantively and procedurally. In the past year, I have emphasized issuing supplemental questionnaires and supporting our findings with publicly available data to ensure we calculate accurate margins based on thorough records. When it comes to explaining our reasoning, I also changed our approach from "less is more" to "more is more" to make sure that companies affected by our decisions can understand our thinking and be confident that our results are well-reasoned and grounded in the record.

In addition to trade remedies, E&C also plays a key role in supporting American exporters. This includes working with foreign governments to remove non-tariff barriers and administering foreign trade zones to support value-added manufacturing in the United States.

In short, American citizens of all stripes, and businesses in every industry, rely on E&C to implement the longstanding trade laws that Congress has passed and updated repeatedly for nearly a century. If confirmed, I am committed to fairly, forcefully, and faithfully administering these laws. I look forward to working closely with this Committee to that end.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and members of the Committee. I look forward to answering your questions.