

**Opening Statement of Mr. Art Fisher**  
**Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Austria**  
**Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**June 12, 2025**

Chairman Risch, Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Shaheen, Ranking Member Murphy, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before you today and for your consideration to allow me to serve as United States Ambassador to the Republic of Austria.

And thank you Senator Hagerty for your kind introduction, and for being not only a mentor, but a friend.

Serving America, whether as a United States Senator, member of the armed services, or United States Ambassador, is the greatest honor any of us could ever have.

I would like to thank President Trump for bestowing his confidence in me by nominating me to serve and thank the American people for their many contributions in making this the greatest land on Earth.

I want to express my heartfelt condolences and love to the Austrian people and the families and loved ones of the victims of the tragic shooting in Graz. We appreciate Chancellor Stocker's leadership in going directly to visit the site and those affected, and remain a steadfast partner to our friends in Austria in condemning any acts of violence.

If confirmed, it will be a pleasure to work with Chancellor Stocker and other members of the Austrian government to further advance our important and mutually beneficial relationship.

Since inception almost 250 years ago, America has been a beacon of hope and opportunity for a multitude of people across the world. Our great nation has also been a warm blanket on a cold night to nations in need, and those aspiring to embody the virtues of democracy.

The relationship and friendship between the United States and Austria is long standing and strong. This year marks the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Marshall Plan which helped in the reconstruction of Europe after World War II and set the stage for a relationship between our two countries that continues to grow.

If confirmed, my top priority as Chief of Mission will always be the safety and security of our American citizens. It will be my honor to help each and every one of them, no matter the circumstance, and no matter their political persuasion.

It will also be a top priority to work with both US and Austrian based companies to create additional jobs and investment between our two countries, and to strengthen our important trading partnership that has existed for decades.

Austria was the fastest-growing source market for Foreign Direct Investment into the US in 2021 and the 8<sup>th</sup> fastest-growing market in 2023. As Americans, we benefit greatly from being both the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest trading partner and export market of Austria—creating thousands of jobs in the United States.

As we approach the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II and the Holocaust, may we remember the longstanding historical and cultural ties between Austria and the United States. Following the liberation of the Mauthausen and Gusen Nazi concentration camps by the US Army and The US's Role in Austria's transition to democracy, generations of Austrians have looked to the United States as a friend and liberator.

We celebrate that this relationship is further enhanced by Austria's commitment to combat antisemitism, a leading priority of the Trump Administration. With your permission to serve, as a representative of both the President and America, I will work persistently to ensure that we remember the past so that it will never be repeated and to perpetuate and respect the religious freedom of every human being.

In appreciation of your service to our great country, thank you for your consideration to allow me to represent America – a nation and INTERNATIONAL BRAND that stands for excellence, fairness, prosperity, and hope for a brighter future for all those who believe in the power of democracy.

I welcome and look forward to taking your questions.