

NOMINATIONS

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Steve Daines presiding. Present: Senators Daines [presiding], McCormick, Cruz, Scott, Shaheen, Murphy, and Kaine.

Senator DAINES. The hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will now come to order.

A reminder to those in attendance, if you disrupt this event, this hearing today, you will be arrested and subject to a ban up to a year, according to DC law. I hope we can have a good hearing today and keep it orderly.

Before we start this morning I am going to let Senator Budd introduce his witness today, and then I will start my remarks.

But Senator Budd, I know you have a busy schedule today. I will turn it over to you.

STATEMENT OF HON. TED BUDD, U.S. SENATOR FROM NORTH CAROLINA

Senator BUDD. Good morning, and thank you very much, Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Kaine, and members and colleagues on the committee. It is my honor to introduce you today to Hon. George Holding of North Carolina, President Trump's nominee to serve as United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Over the past decade I have had the privilege of knowing and working alongside my friend, George, in the U.S. House of Representatives, where we proudly served together for the State of North Carolina.

Ever since I began my career in public service, George has had my back. He was my earliest endorser from the North Carolina congressional delegation when I first ran for Congress in 2016, and there were 17 in that race. And as I was a small business owner from Davie County, I quickly became a trusted friend and respected colleague of George. When they had the Great Redraw of 2016, I even inherited his district number, 13, so for a few years I took a lot of his calls.

As a former member of the House Ways and Means Committee, George was known across the North Carolina congressional delegation as the go to guy for all things tax policy. He consistently pro-

vided sound policy advice anchored in the principles of economic freedom and financial accountability to the American taxpayer.

Throughout his nearly 20 years in public service, George has embodied the best of conservative economics, holding himself to the highest standards of fiscal responsibility to ensure that the hard earned tax dollars of the people of the Eastern District of North Carolina, and all Americans, were spent wisely and not wasted.

Since 1991, following the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the EBRD has eased the path for former communist countries across Central and Eastern Europe to embrace free markets, thereby promoting economic freedom in post-Soviet Europe.

Given our nation's leadership as the bank's largest shareholder, I strongly believe that we need a director with a proven record of stewarding American tax dollars, and I cannot think of anyone better suited for this job than George Holding. George's steady leadership in both the public and private sectors, coupled with his deep understanding of geopolitics has prepared him to lead in this role. As a firm believer in free markets, he is committed to ensuring that American investment is deployed strategically in a way that best serves the American taxpayer. I have no doubt that he will continue to keep American interests top of mind as he supports the bank's mission to promote private sector investment and free market economies while safeguarding American capital.

Strategic and fiscally responsible American investment is particularly important today, given countries who threaten American economic interests around the world. I am proud to join President Trump and Secretary Bessent in confidently endorsing George Holding as a well equipped and esteemed nominee to serve as U.S. Director of EBRD, and throughout today's hearing I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will come to agree with me. And if confirmed, I have no doubt that he will serve our country well. Thank you.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. STEVE DAINES,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MONTANA**

Senator DAINES. Senator Budd, thank you for that very kind introduction.

And I want to thank our nominees today for joining us and for your willingness to serve our great country. It is because of people like you that we are able to further our national security and our national interests, and I extend my sincere thanks to you and your families, and I see many of the families here joining you right behind you.

President Trump and Secretary Rubio are working tirelessly to further the American national interests to make the world safer and more prosperous for Americans, and to reform and revitalize U.S. diplomacy. Their efforts around the world have produced incredible results, bringing peace to war torn regions like the South Caucasus. I got to see that firsthand, seeing Azerbaijan and Armenia brokering a peace deal, something that has basically been a hot war for 35 years, but not today.

They have been stemming the tide of deadly fentanyl entering our country, putting our adversaries on the back foot, furthering U.S. business interests in investment abroad, as well as foreign in-

vestment in the United States. They should be commended for their hard work. Under their leadership, America is back on the world's stage.

If confirmed, all four of you will become part of that effort to further the U.S. national interest. While the countries and institutions at which you will represent the United States are both geographically and functionally diverse—and just looking at where you all are headed, once confirmed, as demonstrated right here with this panel—you will all be a very important part of the State Department's team, and your efforts are critical to the President's initiatives.

Again, I would like to thank each of you personally, as well as your families—speaking as somebody who has lived abroad for a number of years when I was in the private sector—and for your willingness to serve. And I very much look forward to your testimonies.

And with that I would like to recognize my friend, the distinguished Ranking Member, for his comments, Senator Tim Kaine.

**STATEMENT OF HON. TIM KAINE,
U.S. SENATOR FROM VIRGINIA**

Senator KAINE. Great. Thank you to the Chair, and congratulations to all the witnesses.

I will be brief in my opening comments.

These are all important positions for the United States, both the international organizations and the two countries whose nominees are before us today. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is not as well known as organizations like NATO or the EU, but it is extremely important because it has a broader universe of European nations that participate. NATO's membership is smaller. The EU's membership is smaller. But the OSCE includes a broad membership, including nations with whom we have troubled relations, for example, Russia and others. So having a broad expansion of OSCE gives the U.S. the ability to communicate through this organization in ways we cannot through other organizations.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development was created by the United States in the aftermath of the fall of the Soviet Union to help economies that had been sort of state run, socialist economies transform into rule of law based free enterprise economies. Still very, very important, and I know the Chair and I believe that successful economic transition often goes hand in hand with human rights and democracy promotion. The U.S. is the largest shareholder in this institution, and it is important that we be well represented.

Tanzania has been an important ally of the United States. There has been strong military to military cooperation with Tanzania. There was a recent election in 2025 that was marred by violence. That election led to the election of a candidate with, I think, a 97 percent vote, which tells us we ought to be nervous about the state of democracy in Tanzania. But it has been an ally in the past. We want the relationship to be strong.

And then, finally, Guatemala is a neighbor, sizable Guatemalan-American population, including in Virginia where I live. The elec-

tion of President Arévalo a couple of years back was an election that was widely hailed by the population as a new chapter in Guatemala that could open up doors to more transparency and less corruption. But the inauguration of President Arévalo was marked by an attempt to engage in a pre-inaugural coup, and then violence on Inauguration Day that delayed the inauguration of President Arévalo. It is a really important relationship to the United States because we are neighbors, but it is also important for the United States to support a pro-democracy leader who is trying to battle corruption and the end of culture of impunity that had been an endemic part of Guatemala for many, many years.

So these are four really important positions.

I am glad we are having this hearing today. Mr. Chair, I yield back.

Senator DAINES. Senator Kaine, thank you, and Mr. Rodriguez and I had a good chat about that transition between Giammattei and Arévalo back in 2023. I happened to arrive on the scene in Guatemala in the middle of that transition, and I want to thank now Secretary Rubio, but then Senator Rubio, who we worked together for that peaceful transition to ensure that democracy prevailed there, and we had yet another peaceful transition of power, which is so important to demonstrate around the world.

Mr. Rodriguez, your background in Guatemala, you are well equipped to do a great job as their Ambassador.

Senator McCormick, I know you have an introduction to make here. The floor is yours.

**STATEMENT OF HON. DAVID MCCORMICK,
U.S. SENATOR FROM PENNSYLVANIA**

Senator MCCORMICK. Great. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, and thank you for the opportunity to introduce the President's nominee to serve as the United States Permanent Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Darrell Owens. It is a privilege to introduce Darrell, not just as a highly qualified nominee but a fellow Pennsylvanian, a former Senate staffer, and a fellow Army officer who has dedicated his career to serving his country.

I also want to welcome Darrell's wife, Brooke, a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force Reserve, and it says two, but I think three children are with you, right, including a 7 week old baby. So welcome. Great to have you here, and great to have Darrell's parents.

Public service is a family commitment, not just an individual one, and we are grateful for your own service but also for the support you have all given Darrell throughout his career. Darrell's roots in western Pennsylvania run deep, and they shape both his character and commitment to service. And like so many from our Commonwealth, he brings a grounded, practical approach to leadership, built on a career of hard work, accountability, and a clear sense of duty.

He also understands this institution. As a former congressional staffer to Senator Pat Toomey and Congressman GT Thompson, Darrell spent years working behind the scenes to support the work

of this body, preparing members, coordinating policy, and helping ensure that Congress could effectively carry out its important institutional responsibilities. And that experience matters. It means he approaches this role with a genuine respect for this Committee, for its oversight function, and for the importance of maintaining a strong partnership between the legislative and executive branches.

In addition to his civilian service, Darrell and I share the common thread of service in the United States Army, him with his deployments in South Korea, Poland, and Germany. He continues to serve to this day as an officer in the Army Reserve. And that experience in the military has helped shape his strategic thinking, his leadership, and his understanding, very real understanding, of the security challenges facing the United States. And it is that perspective that comes from wearing the uniform, that emphasis of mission, accountability, and putting the country first, that I think is an invaluable perspective that you will bring to this important role, if confirmed.

Professionally, Darrell has built a strong record of public service at the Department of Veterans Affairs, including in a senior leadership role and within Congressional Legislative Affairs. He has demonstrated an ability to manage complex issues, work across institutions, and deliver results on behalf of Pennsylvanians and Americans.

This role he has been nominated for is an important one, particularly at this moment. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe sits at the center of many of the pressing security and governance challenges in Europe and Eurasia. At a time of continued instability, strong and credible American leadership in that forum, at a time when NATO and the role of many NATO countries is in question, it could not be more significant. So I am glad you are going to be our representative.

Darrell brings the unique experience of judgment, the sense of service and responsibility. And I am confident he will represent the United States with professionalism and integrity, and for that reason I strongly support his nomination, and I urge my fellow committee members to support him, as well.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator DAINES. Senator McCormick, thank you, and I concur with your remarks.

Mr. Owens, I very much enjoyed our time we spent yesterday, and Senator Kaine pointed out the importance of this role, not that well known on this side of the pond but very important. And of course, to the extent of the aperture, including Central Asia, the Caucasus. This is a very important time for you to be in this very important role, and I think you are very well equipped with your background to do that, and congratulations as a new dad, as well.

And you will be the first witness today, and that is Mr. Darrell Owens, nominee to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Mr. Owens, the floor is yours.

**STATEMENT OF DARRELL OWENS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, WITH THE RANK OF
AMBASSADOR**

Mr. OWENS. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, Senator McCormick, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as the United States Permanent Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Senator McCormick, thank you for the heartfelt introduction, as well.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the time meeting yesterday, as well. That was a terrific meeting. Thank you.

I am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their confidence in me and for the opportunity to continue to serve my country.

Before anything else, I want to acknowledge how meaningful it is for me to sit here today. Earlier in my career, I had the privilege of serving as a Senate staffer. I spent many hours preparing briefing materials, coordinating questions, and supporting the work of members of this body.

Because of that experience, I have an enormous respect for the role the Senate plays in shaping American foreign policy and exercising its constitutional responsibility of advice and consent. I also have tremendous respect for the professional staff who make this institution function every day. Having spent years on that side of the dais, it is both humbling and deeply meaningful to appear before you today on this side of the aisle.

Public service has been the central thread of my career. I have had the privilege of serving in uniform as an officer in the United States Army Reserve, including time supporting U.S. military in Europe. As I mentioned earlier, I also had the opportunity to work in Congress, both in the House and the Senate, on national security and foreign policy matters. Most recently, I served at the Department of Veterans Affairs as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, and I am grateful to Secretary Collins and my VA colleagues for their dedication and work for our veterans every day.

I would also like to thank my family, who are here today. My wife Brooke, she has been incredible and supportive, even with her own outstanding career and accomplished background, including as an Air Force Reserve officer. I am also joined by my children, Lincoln, Madison, and our brand new little guy, Jackson. And he was so excited last night that he did not sleep at all in preparation for this hearing. My family is the foundation of everything I do, and I am incredibly grateful for their love and support. I am also thankful for my parents, Jeff and Mary, who are here today, my mother-in-law Lisa, my friends and colleagues who are here today who have been supporting me throughout my career, and who have been very excited to see me take on this new role.

If confirmed, I will approach this role with a clear understanding that American leadership in Europe remains essential to our security and prosperity.

The United States helped establish the OSCE during the cold war—with broad support from Congress—as a forum where nations with profoundly different political systems could engage in dialogue, reduce tensions, and promote stability across the Euro-Atlantic region.

The Helsinki Final Act articulated a vision of comprehensive security that remains just as relevant today as it did in 1975. For decades, the OSCE has played a valuable role in advancing military stability, economic cooperation, and respect for human rights. It has served as a forum for arms control negotiations, confidence building measures, and dialogue among nations that often see the world very differently.

Today, the importance of that mission is as clear as ever. Russia's war against Ukraine has fundamentally challenged the European security architecture. At the same time, the OSCE remains one of the few institutions where states with differing perspectives can still engage directly on security issues. If confirmed, I will work closely with our allies and partners to ensure the OSCE continues to serve as a meaningful venue for dialogue, transparency, and conflict prevention.

Simultaneously, the organization must remain focused on its core mission. Over time, the OSCE's scope has broadened significantly, and it is important to reform, refocus, and refine to ensure it can effectively meet today's security challenges. If confirmed, I will work with participating states to ensure the organization becomes focused, effective, and capable of advancing peace and stability across the region.

Finally, I want to recognize the important role Congress has played in supporting the OSCE since its founding. The bipartisan leadership of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and the engagement of Members of Congress in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly have been instrumental in advancing the principles reflected in the Helsinki Final Act.

If confirmed, I look forward to working very closely with this committee, the Helsinki Commission, and the Congress.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to be here today, and I yield.

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Additional Nominee Questions**

1. Do you agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from your office available to the Committee when invited?
Answer: Yes
2. Do you commit to keeping this Committee fully informed about the activities under your purview in a timely manner?
Answer: Yes
3. Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, not just providing notification after the fact?
Answer: Yes
4. Do you commit to responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff as soon as practicable?
Answer: Yes
5. Do you agree to ensuring that Chiefs of Mission fully support CODELs and STAFFDELS, with exceptions only for simultaneous or overlapping visits by the President or First Lady of the United States, the Vice President, or the Secretaries of State or Defense?
Answer: Yes


Printed Name: Darrell Owens
Date: 4/28/2026

[The prepared statement of Mr. Owens follows:]

Prepared Statement of Darrell Owens

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Kaine, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as the United States Permanent Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

I am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their confidence in me and for the opportunity to continue serving our country.

Before anything else, I want to acknowledge how meaningful it is for me to sit here today. Earlier in my career, I had the privilege of serving as a Senate staffer. I spent many hours preparing briefing materials, coordinating questions, and supporting the work of members of this body.

Because of that experience, I have an enormous respect for the role the Senate plays in shaping American foreign policy and exercising its constitutional responsibility of advice and consent. I also have tremendous respect for the professional staff who make this institution function every day. Having spent years on that side of the dais, it is both humbling and deeply meaningful to appear before you today on this side.

Public service has been the central thread of my career. I have had the privilege of serving in uniform as an officer in the United States Army Reserve, including time supporting U.S. military operations in Europe. As I mentioned earlier, I also had the opportunity to work in Congress, both in the House and Senate, on national security and foreign policy matters, helping Members of Congress navigate some of the most complex challenges facing our country.

Most recently, I served at the Department of Veterans Affairs as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, where I worked closely with Congress to advance policies supporting our Nation's veterans.

I would also like to acknowledge my family, who are here today. My wife Brooke has been steadfast in her support despite her own outstanding career and accomplished background, including as an Air Force Reserve officer. I am also joined by my children, Lincoln, Madison, and our newest son, Jackson. And I apologize in advance if Jackson tries to introduce himself at some point during this hearing. My family is the foundation of everything I do, and I am grateful for their love and support. I'm also thankful for my parents, siblings, friends and colleagues who are here today and have been supporting me throughout my career, and who are excited to see me take on this new role.

If confirmed, I will approach this role with a clear understanding that American leadership in Europe remains essential to our security and prosperity.

The United States helped establish the OSCE during the cold war—with broad support from Congress—as a forum where nations with profoundly different political systems could engage in dialogue, reduce tensions, and promote stability across the Euro-Atlantic region.

The Helsinki Final Act articulated a vision of comprehensive security that remains just as relevant today as it was in 1975. It recognized that military stability, economic cooperation, and respect for human rights are interconnected and essential to lasting peace.

For decades, the OSCE has played a valuable role in advancing these principles. It has served as a forum for arms control negotiations, confidence-building measures, and dialogue among nations that often see the world very differently. It has also supported partner countries through field operations focused on strengthening democratic institutions, border security, and economic transparency and stability.

Today, the importance of that mission is as clear as ever.

Russia's war against Ukraine has fundamentally challenged the European security architecture. At the same time, the OSCE remains one of the few institutions where states with differing perspectives can still engage directly on security issues. If confirmed, I will work closely with our allies and partners to ensure the OSCE continues to serve as a meaningful venue for dialogue, transparency, and conflict prevention.

At the same time, the organization must refocus on its core mandate. Over time, the OSCE's scope has broadened significantly, and it is important to get serious about reform to ensure it can effectively meet today's security challenges. If confirmed, I will work with participating states to ensure the organization becomes focused, effective, and capable of advancing peace and stability across the region.

Finally, I want to recognize the important role Congress has played in supporting the OSCE since its founding. The bipartisan leadership of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and the engagement of Members of Congress in the OSCE Parliamentary

Assembly have been instrumental in advancing the principles reflected in the Helsinki Final Act.

If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this Committee, the Helsinki Commission, and the Congress to advance policies that strengthen American leadership and promote peace, security, and prosperity across the region.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to your questions.

Senator DAINES. Mr. Owens, thank you. I got to watch the Darrell Owens fan club there behind you, beaming with pride as you shared your remarks.

Mr. OWENS. Thank you, sir.

Senator DAINES. Mr. Juan Rodriguez, nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala.

Mr. Rodriguez, the floor is yours.

STATEMENT OF JUAN RODRIGUEZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Kaine, and distinguished members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you as the President's nominee to serve as Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Guatemala. I am honored by President Trump's trust in me with this nomination and am mindful of the responsibility to put the interests of the American people first in every aspect of this role.

I want to introduce my wife MarvieAnn, and my children, Marissa and Ethan, for being here today. I am grateful to my family for their support.

Representing the United States abroad is among the highest responsibilities our nation can bestow, and I approach this nomination with humility and respect for the important and time honored role of this committee and the constitutional role of the Senate.

Guatemala is a vital partner in Central America, bound to the United States by deep economic ties, shared democratic aspirations, and strong people to people connections. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that our engagement reflects both our strategic priorities and our enduring commitment to economic growth and regional stability.

Guatemala matters to the United States because what happens there directly affects our security, our economy, and our border. If confirmed, my approach will be grounded in a clear principle: U.S. engagement must deliver concrete results for Americans, including safer communities, compelling economic opportunities, and a more secure and prosperous hemisphere.

I will prioritize the protection of U.S. citizens and the security of our personnel in Guatemala.

American taxpayer dollars must be used transparently and effectively to advance our interests. I will insist on accountability, discipline, and measurable outcomes in all U.S. funded programs and embassy activities in Guatemala.

My efforts will advance America First foreign policy priorities.

First, migration must be addressed with urgency and realism. Illegal immigration from Guatemala strains our border, our resources, and communities. I will press for even stronger coopera-

tion with the Guatemalan government to stop illegal immigration, disrupt human smuggling networks, and ensure the prompt return of those who do not have a legal basis to stay in the United States. Our message will be clear: illegal immigration is not a pathway to entry.

Second, economic engagement must support American workers, businesses, and producers. I will advocate for stronger enforcement of trade rules, aim to reverse unfair practices, and promote opportunities for U.S. companies to compete and win. Expanding economic opportunity in Guatemala can reduce incentives for illegal immigration, but it must be done in a way that strengthens American competitiveness.

Third, security cooperation will focus on results. Transnational criminal organizations, narcotics traffickers, and gangs, including those designated as foreign terrorist organizations, threaten both our nations. I will work to ensure that our security partnerships are targeted and effective to deliver on U.S. priorities to reduce the flow of drugs into our country, dismantle criminal networks, and enhance regional stability.

Last, China's economic expansion in the Western Hemisphere threatens U.S. national security, prosperity, and critical supply chains. I will work to ensure Guatemala can be a key bulwark against Chinese influence in the region.

If confirmed, I will bring a clear eyed, results driven approach to this role. I will work closely with Congress to ensure transparency and accountability, and I will not lose sight of who I serve: the American people.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your questions.

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

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Answer: Yes

2. Do you commit to keeping this Committee fully informed about the activities under your purview in a timely manner?

Answer: Yes

3. Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, not just providing notification after the fact?

Answer: Yes

4. Do you commit to responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff as soon as practicable?

Answer: Yes

5. Do you agree to ensuring that Chiefs of Mission fully support CODELs and STAFFDELS, with exceptions only for simultaneous or overlapping visits by the President or First Lady of the United States, the Vice President, or the Secretaries of State or Defense?

Answer: Yes



Printed Name: Juan Rodriguez

Date: 4/28/2026

[The prepared statement of Mr. Rodriguez follows:]

Prepared Statement of Juan Rodriguez

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If confirmed, I will bring a clear-eyed, results-driven approach to this role. I will work closely with Congress to ensure transparency and accountability, and I will not lose sight of who I serve: the American people. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your questions.

Senator DAINES. Mr. Rodriguez, thank you. From our discussion yesterday I know you spent a lot of time in Guatemala. It will serve you well as our next Ambassador there.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you.

Senator DAINES. Mr. William Trachman, nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Tanzania.

Mr. Trachman, the floor is yours.

**STATEMENT OF WILLIAM TRACHMAN, OF COLORADO, TO BE
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED REPUB-
LIC OF TANZANIA**

Mr. TRACHMAN. Thank you, Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Kaine, and distinguished committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. I am honored by President Trump's nomination to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania. I want to thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their faith in me and express my gratitude to my wife, Ellen Trachman, as well as our four wonderful children, Meira, Turner, Zev, and Lindy.

I am personally the product of diplomacy done well. My father was from New Jersey. My mother was from Fresno, California. My father was a strident libertarian. My mother, on the other hand, worked for the Fresno County Library system, and was a member of the SEIU. But across these differences we always met in the middle and emphasized our common interests in family.

While working in the first Trump administration, I often thought of my mother and father, of blessed memory.

At the Department of Education I helped to enshrine into law protections against sexual harassment under Title IX, while also codifying due process protections on campuses. We also published important documents on racial equality, and on the threat of anti-semitism.

In sum, I try to find the win-win. I am optimistic that when people come to the table, even if they sit down with divergent interests, they can stand up with mutual respect and shared understanding.

That brings me to Tanzania, a country of immense strategic importance. With a population of more than 65 million, over 120 ethnic groups, and substantial natural resources, Tanzania is vital for supporting regional stability in East Africa. For decades, our nations have cooperated closely and emphasized our shared interests.

However, today our relationship faces undeniable challenges. The October 2025 elections and the violence that followed have raised serious concerns about Tanzania's trajectory as a reliable partner. While I understand that Tanzania has taken positive steps, if confirmed I would ensure that Tanzania lives up to its commitments. I would also push for cooperation in areas that advance American interests and regional stability.

If confirmed, my three priorities would be:

First, advancing American commercial interests in sectors such as mining, energy, tourism, health, and technology. Tanzania possesses significant deposits of nickel, graphite, and rare earth elements, which are critical to American national security. American companies are poised to responsibly invest in Tanzania but have confronted consistent regulatory uncertainty. I would advocate for predictable investment conditions codified into law by Tanzania's National Assembly, and help unlock opportunities for both countries.

Second, strengthening what works, our security cooperation. Tanzania has been a partner in maritime security and counter-narcotics. I would work with Tanzanian authorities to deepen co-

operation where our interests align, including in addressing transnational threats.

Third, promoting respect for natural rights. Human liberty is the foundation of stability and prosperity. The Tanzanian Constitution itself states that citizens have the right to equality and freedom of religion. But as Justice Scalia noted, it is easy to make promises like these on paper. The key is enforcing those promises.

I will also prioritize the safety of American citizens and U.S. personnel in Tanzania, the oldest and most important duty of U.S. diplomatic missions.

I also note that Tanzania operates in a highly competitive international environment. In particular, China leverages influence through infrastructure projects and resource development. I would work to demonstrate that partnership with the United States, grounded in transparency, offers the best path forward for Tanzania's development and for its citizens.

Additionally, if confirmed, I will keep this committee informed and support the career diplomats and locally employed staff in Dar es Salaam who serve our country with dedication and professionalism.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Additional Nominee Questions

1. Do you agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from your office available to the Committee when invited?

Answer: Yes

2. Do you commit to keeping this Committee fully informed about the activities under your purview in a timely manner?

Answer: Yes

3. Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, not just providing notification after the fact?

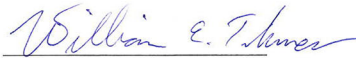
Answer: Yes

4. Do you commit to responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff as soon as practicable?

Answer: Yes

5. Do you agree to ensuring that Chiefs of Mission fully support CODELs and STAFFDELS, with exceptions only for simultaneous or overlapping visits by the President or First Lady of the United States, the Vice President, or the Secretaries of State or Defense?

Answer: Yes



Printed Name: William Trachman

Date: 4/28/2026

[The prepared statement of Mr. Trachman follows:]

Prepared Statement of William Trachman

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Kaine, and distinguished Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am deeply honored by President Trump's nomination to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania, and am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Rubio for putting their faith in me. I want to thank my wife Ellen Trachman, as well as our four children, Meira, Turner, Zev, and Lindy, for their unwavering support throughout this process.

Let me start by introducing myself. I grew up in the Central Valley of California, in Fresno. And I am personally the product of diplomacy done well. My father was from West Orange, New Jersey. My mother was a Fresno native. My father was a follower of Ayn Rand's objectivist movement, and a strident libertarian. My mother, on the other hand, was an employee of the Fresno County Public Library system, and a member of the SEIU. But across these and other differences, we always came to the table every evening for family dinner.

While working in the first Trump Administration, I often thought of my mother and father, of blessed memory. From 2017 to 2021, I served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the US Department of Education. There, I listened to and worked with numerous stakeholders to enshrine into law for the first time protections against sexual harassment under Title IX, while also codifying due process protections on campus; we also published important documents on racial equality, and on the threat to students from anti-Semitism.

In sum, I try to find areas of mutual agreement; I'm generally optimistic that when people come to the table, even if they sit down with divergent interests, they can stand up with mutual respect and with a shared understanding of where things stand. By the same token, I never hesitate to roll up my sleeves and do the heavy lifting ahead of time, to find out what matters most to the parties.

That brings me to Tanzania.

Tanzania is a country of immense strategic importance. With a population of more than 65 million people, a rich cultural heritage of over 120 ethnic groups, and substantial natural resources, Tanzania is vital for supporting regional stability and commerce. For decades, our nations have cooperated closely on health, security, and economic development, building a relationship grounded in mutual respect and shared interests.

Today, however, our bilateral relationship faces undeniable challenges. The October 2025 elections and the violence that followed have raised serious concerns about Tanzania's trajectory as a reliable partner. While I understand Tanzania has taken positive steps, if confirmed, I would ensure Tanzania lives up to its commitments. To that end, I would directly raise these issues with Tanzanian leaders, including President Samia, and continue to push for cooperation on practical areas of cooperation that advance American interests and support stability in the region.

If confirmed, my 3 priorities would include the following:

First, advancing American commercial interests. Tanzania offers significant opportunities to advance American leadership in sectors such as mining, energy, tourism, health, and technology. Tanzania also possesses significant deposits of nickel, graphite, and rare earth elements, minerals that are critical to American national security. American companies are poised to responsibly invest in Tanzania but have confronted regulatory uncertainty and uneven competition. I would work to support U.S. businesses, advocate for transparent and predictable investment conditions codified into law by Tanzania's National Assembly, and help unlock opportunities that benefit both of our economies.

Second, strengthening security cooperation on shared challenges. Tanzania has been a partner in maritime security and counternarcotics. I would work with Tanzanian authorities to deepen cooperation where our interests align, including in addressing transnational threats, improving maritime domain awareness along Indian Ocean coastlines, and promoting regional stability in East Africa.

Third, promoting respect for natural rights. Religious freedom, freedom of expression, and the rule of law are core American values, and the foundations of stability and prosperity. The Tanzanian Constitution states that citizens have the right to personal freedom, equality, and freedom of religion. But as Justice Scalia noted, it is easy to make promises like these on paper. The key is enforcing those promises. I would address with Tanzanian leaders concerns about civic space, and the ability of religious and community leaders to operate freely in accord with the country's foundational legal documents.

I will also prioritize the safety and security of American citizens and U.S. personnel in Tanzania, the oldest and most important duty of U.S. diplomatic missions.

I would also like to note that Tanzania operates in a highly competitive international environment. Other countries, including China, leverage influence in the country, including through infrastructure projects and resource development. I would work to demonstrate that partnership with the United States, grounded in transparency, sustainability, and mutual benefit, offers a strong and reliable path for Tanzania's development.

Additionally, if confirmed, I will keep this Committee informed and support the career diplomats and locally employed staff at the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam who serve our country with dedication and professionalism.

Stated simply, the United States and Tanzania share many opportunities for cooperation. If confirmed, I would work diligently to advance American interests, uphold American values, and strengthen a relationship that can deliver tangible benefits for both our nations.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. I look forward to your questions.

Senator DAINES. Mr. Trachman, thank you. It is nice to see your daughter smile there when she got a shout out from Dad.

And finally our Treasury nominee, Hon. George Holding. The Honorable Holding and I were elected together in 2012 to the House. We were both freshmen, once upon a time.

George, good to see you back here.

He is the nominee to be the United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Congressman Holding, the floor is yours.

STATEMENT OF HON. GEORGE HOLDING, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. HOLDING. Thank you.

Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished members of the committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as the nominee to serve as the United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the EBRD. I would like to thank President Trump on this nomination and Secretary Scott Bessent and Assistant Secretary Francis Brooke for their confidence and encouragement.

Most importantly, I would like to thank my wife Lucy, and our four children whose steadfast support have made possible my nearly 20 years of public service. I am proud of our four children—Beatrice, Alice, Louisa, and Royall—whose curiosity, resilience, and optimism remind me daily of the enduring promise of American leadership in the world. My daughter, Beatrice, is taking the day off from her important work at our mission at the United Nations to support me today, and I am glad she is here.

During my career, I have served in roles across law, public policy, and business, each of which has shaped my belief in the power of free enterprise and democratic governance to lift nations and individuals alike.

Having been an Assistant United States Attorney, in 2006 I was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, a post I held until 2011.

From 2013 to 2021, I represented an eastern North Carolina Congressional District. During my time in the House I served on the Ways and Means Committee, Budget Committee, Ethics Committee, Foreign Affairs, and Judiciary. Since leaving Congress I put

my experience to work in the private sector, offering advice on geopolitics and political risk.

The EBRD was established in 1991, following the fall of the Berlin Wall, to help nations transition to open market based democracies. Over the last three decades, it has been an essential instrument in promoting economic freedom and stability in post-Soviet and emerging economies, helping transform fragile states into valued allies and trading partners of the United States.

The United States remains the Bank's largest shareholder and an influential voice. And as such, our leadership is important to ensuring that the EBRD continues to advance free markets, sound governance, and private sector development rather than contrary political agendas.

The Bank's mission is not charity. It is a strategic investment in democracy, stability, security, and market based prosperity. Every American tax dollar devoted to international development must be safeguarded, ensuring it delivers measurable results and genuine opportunity for the people it seeks to empower.

The EBRD's focus should remain on nations where its investments have the greatest potential for transformation, particularly across countries formerly within the Soviet Union, where American engagement is critical amid growing Great Power competition. At the same time, the Bank should pursue a disciplined graduation process for advanced European economies that have achieved sufficient market maturity.

Having served both in Congress and in the private sector, I am keenly aware that development institutions succeed only when they remain mission driven, transparent, and efficient. The EBRD must continue to strengthen its governance, preserve its AAA credit rating, and maximize private sector "crowding in" to make the most of its shareholder provided capital.

Investment funds, sovereign wealth funds, and institutional investors represent immense potential for partnership, particularly U.S. private investors. The Bank's ability to catalyze those resources, to do more with less, will determine its relevance and impact in the decade ahead.

The EBRD's founding mandate—to foster entrepreneurship, strengthen legal systems, and promote open markets—remains as vital today as it was in 1991. Upholding that mission, while adapting to new global realities, is the task before us.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, throughout my career I have been guided by the conviction that economic freedom is the foundation principle of political freedom. Strong markets, democratic governance and Rule of Law sustain one another. The work of the EBRD is not only an investment in prosperity abroad, it is a safeguard for peace and stability that benefits the American people at home.

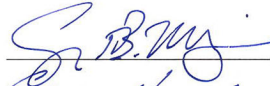
If confirmed, I will vigorously defend our nation's interests, insist upon accountability and results, and ensure that the Bank's resources are used wisely, effectively, and in accordance with the highest standards of good governance.

Thank you for your time. I appreciate appearing before you, and I look forward to your questions.

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee
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1. Do you agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from your office available to the Committee when invited?
Answer: Yes
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Answer: Yes



Printed Name: GEORGE HARDING

Date: 28 APRIL 2026

[The prepared statement of Mr. Holding follows:]

Prepared Statement of Hon. George Holding

Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished Members of the Committee,

It is an honor to appear before you today as the nominee to serve as the United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

I would like to thank President Trump on this nomination and Secretary Scott Bessent and Assistant Secretary Francis Brooke for their confidence and encouragement. Most importantly I'd like to thank my wife, Lucy, and four children whose steadfast support have made possible my nearly 20 years of public service. I am proud of our four children—Beatrice, Alice, Louisa, and Royall—whose curiosity, resilience, and optimism remind me daily of the enduring promise of American leadership in the world.

During my career, I have served in roles across law, public policy, and business—each of which has shaped my belief in the power of free enterprise and democratic governance to lift nations and individuals alike.

Having been an Assistant United States Attorney, in 2006 I was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, a post I held until 2011.

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Having served both in Congress and in the private sector, I am keenly aware that development institutions succeed only when they remain mission-driven, transparent, and efficient. The EBRD must continue to strengthen its governance, preserve its AAA credit rating, and maximize private-sector “crowding-in” to make the most of its shareholder-provided capital.

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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee—throughout my career, I have been guided by the conviction that economic freedom is the foundation of political freedom. Strong free markets, democratic governance and Rule of Law sustain one another. The work of the EBRD is not only an investment in prosperity abroad—it is a safeguard for peace and stability that benefits the American people at home.

If confirmed, I will vigorously defend our Nation's interests, insist upon accountability and results, and ensure that the Bank's resources are used wisely, effectively, and in accordance with the highest standards of good governance.

Thank you for the privilege of appearing before you today. I look forward to your questions.

Senator DAINES. Congressman Holding, thank you, and thank you for your willingness to leave the private sector and come back into public service, as well.

Mr. Owens, I am going to start with you. It was very great to speak with you yesterday. I enjoyed our conversation. A lot of people forget that Central Asia has a longstanding tradition of participation within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, or of course, OSCE. My question is, how would you be equipped at OSCE to help advance U.S. interests in Central Asia?

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, thank you so much for that question. I also enjoyed our dialogue yesterday on this question. I think the OSCE is a very large body, 57 member nations, from Vancouver to Vladivostok. So I think people often forget, as you mentioned, that the Central Asian nations are members of OSCE. In fact, four of our field missions at the OSCE are there in the Central Asia nations.

So if confirmed, I want to work closely with those missions there to ensure that the opportunities that present themselves, especially in combating transnational crime and money laundering, et cetera, and countering especially Russian and Chinese influence, is of utmost importance.

I think right now, because in my personal opinion, Russia has been very focused on Ukraine, and I think they have taken their eye off the ball in the Central Asian nations. And I think it presents an incredible opportunity for the United States to engage those nations and work together, and especially now that Armenia and Azerbaijan have a peace deal.

Senator DAINES. Mr. Owens, you brought up Ukraine. The OSCE was originally created to advance peace and stability through political dialogue. I think the OSCE, in my view, has experienced a bit of mission creep over the years, and I am probably saying that kindly. Mr. Owens, how can the OSCE reinvest into its core mission and direct greater attention to helping end the war in Ukraine?

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, great question. And if confirmed, one of my top priorities will be to reform and refocus the OSCE. Back when it was founded in 1975—I am a student of history, so when the Helsinki Courts were founded in 1975, the OSCE was born. The main purpose of this was to get the Soviets and the Americans to talk in kind of a broader European backdrop, for regional security.

The mission has ballooned since then, and if we can refocus that mission, get it back to its very core elements that are put out in the final act, I think it could really be an effective organization, especially considering who the membership is.

Senator DAINES. Thank you.

My last question, Mr. Holding, I have long said that energy security is national security. I support EBRD's investments in energy focused projects. I do have some concerns about the disproportionate number of projects that are focused on intermittent energy sources. They do not produce base load power.

Now, well into the fourth year, Russia's war in Ukraine has clearly demonstrated the need for Europe to invest in base load

power generation capabilities. If confirmed, how would you embrace a more strategic outlook for EBRD investment portfolio?

Mr. HOLDING. Senator, I appreciate the question. That is a very good question, very relevant.

I support an all of the above energy policy for the EBRD. The EBRD, as I mentioned in my opening statement, is not a charity. The deals that the EBRD is involved in have to make good business sense. So when looking at energy sources, whether it is directly investing in an energy source or investing in what energy sources it relied on, I would have an all of the above approach and not be biased against one form of energy or another.

Senator DAINES. Thank you.

Senator KAINE.

Senator KAINE. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and to the witnesses.

Mr. Owens, I want to encourage you, if you have not already, to reach out to former Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore, who held your position during President Trump's first term. I know Governor Gilmore well. I supported him in his confirmation to the position. He was, previous to his elected office, an Army intelligence officer serving in Europe, so he was really perfectly suited for the position. I think he might have a lot to share with you.

My questions are going to be to Mr. Rodriguez.

Mr. Rodriguez, in December 2023, both Chairman Daines and then me, together with a number of colleagues from the committee, on two separate visits went to Guatemala to try to interrupt what we believed might have been a coup in progress, to deprive the elected President Arévalo of taking office in January 2024. Both of us, in a bipartisan way, delivered some tough love messages to outgoing President Giammattei and encouragement to the elected President, President Arévalo, and we also spoke with the American Chamber of Commerce business leaders and others, to say that it was very, very important that the will of the Guatemalan electorate be respected.

So I want to thank my colleague, Secretary Rubio, at the time Senator Rubio, was very engaged in these efforts, and there was a strong bipartisan commitment on this committee, and generally in Congress, to see that there was a peaceful transition of power.

We are now a couple of years in, and this year is a pretty important one for that effort. This year there will be a set of judicial elections—the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, the Constitutional Court, and the Attorney General's Office—and next year Guatemala is scheduled to hold general elections for both President and Congress.

Talk to us about the support that you will provide, without interfering in Guatemalan domestic politics, but to try to ensure that the U.S. position in support of free and fair elections is well understood in Guatemala, should you be confirmed.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, Senator KAINE.

I think it is very important for the embassy to, first of all, engage with candidates that are running for office, and engage in the sense that I think it is important for them to let candidates know what the U.S. priorities are. I, however, do not believe that the embassy should be used to endorse any specific candidates.

Senator KAINE. I agree with that.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. I think that that crosses the line to interference with domestic politics, and I would not be supportive of that.

As far as how we ensure a transparent and fair election in June of next year, I think, first of all, the United States has to speak for the rule of law. I think we have to continue to support the ongoing elections that are occurring in Guatemala. When I say support, I think we should ensure that the domestic process is observed, that there is no interference from malign actors, and that Guatemala is determined to determine for itself who is going to be their representative in these important institutions. As far as I can tell—

Senator KAINE. And then just on the malign actors point, you would agree with me that pushing back against interference by malign actors would include not only foreign malign actors but domestic malign actors who are trying to interrupt the democratic process in Guatemala.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. I completely concur.

Senator KAINE. Thank you.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. So far I believe that the Electoral Tribunal has already been elected. Right now there is an election process going on for the Attorney General position. And as far as I can see, things are proceeding according to domestic law, and I think we should support that.

Senator KAINE. The current Attorney General, Consuelo Porras, has been subject to significant sanctions from the United States. If confirmed, would you continue to carry out U.S. policy with respect to that official who has been sanctioned by the United States?

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Senator, I am not aware as to the particulars as to why Consuelo Porras has been sanctioned. The State Department has not shared that information with me, so I cannot opine as to what the basis for the sanctions are. However, I am there to serve at the instructions of the President and the Secretary, and I will fulfill those instructions, as the President's representative in Guatemala.

Senator KAINE. Do you know Ms. Porras?

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. No, sir. I have never met her.

Senator KAINE. Have you had any discussions with anyone at the State Department or the Administration about Ms. Porras?

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. No, in the sense, Senator, that they told me the information was classified, and as a layperson I am not entitled to receive that information.

Senator KAINE. Thank you for that. I yield back.

Senator DAINES. Thank you, Senator Kaine.

Senator McCormick.

Senator MCCORMICK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member.

And to all the nominees, congratulations to you and your families for being here today.

Mr. Owens, let me start with you. Since Russia's full scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the OSCE has faced significant institutional strain, with consensus based decisionmaking repeatedly obstructing the core principles of the Helsinki Accords, including sovereignty, territorial integrity, and peaceful resolution of disputes all being openly violated.

Much like its U.N. reform agenda, the Trump administration has argued that the OSCE has potential as a forum for European security dialogue, but it must demonstrate efficiency, focus, and results that are aligned with U.S. national interests.

If confirmed, how would you advance those U.S. objectives while preserving the OSCE as a viable form for dialogue to prevent wars and instability in Europe?

Mr. OWENS. Senator, thank you very much for that question. The Russian war against Ukraine has been horrible; countless atrocities. The White House has continued to prioritize trying to find a peaceful resolution to that conflict, obviously, and President Trump and Secretary Rubio are both committed to peace and long term stability in Ukraine.

And if confirmed, my role, I think, would be to get the OSCE to a place where, if asked, in a post-conflict Ukraine, the OSCE be ready to jump in and be a credible body to help with the post-war peace. But as you mentioned, that comes with significant reforms. It is trying to get back to the core roots of what the OSCE was meant to do, and that is dialogue. I think right now the OSCE, for a long time, has had bodies, and my colleagues there, if confirmed, have been talking past each other, not with each other.

And I think while others look at OSCE as a problem, because Russia is involved in the organization, I see that as an opportunity. I think having Russia involved in the OSCE, to bring that dialogue, to work with them constructively I think is an opportunity.

Senator McCORMICK. Thank you.

Mr. Rodriguez, welcome. Thanks for being here today and for your willingness to serve. U.S.-Guatemalan relations are at a high point, marked by significant growth and bilateral cooperation on migration enforcement and counternarcotics. At the same time, President Arévalo has faced persistent obstruction, from corrupt networks embedded in Guatemala's judiciary and the Attorney General's Office, limiting his ability to govern effectively.

If confirmed, how do you plan to sustain the strong bilateral relationship with the Trump administration while navigating those domestic political constraints the President faces, and what types of programs will you advocate for with the State Department leadership when soliciting America First Opportunity Fund resources?

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Senator, first of all I think you build on the foundation that has already been established, and there is a strong interagency cooperation with the Guatemalan government to fight narco-trafficking, to fight the narco-financing of political organizations. I think that can certainly be furthered.

With respect to aid, foreign aid now is being handled by the embassy, and there is a January Global Health Memorandum of Understanding, which has earmarked about \$65 million of aid that is going to go toward lifesaving aid financial assistance, and I think you continue to pursue that financial assistance and training of the interagency task force.

Senator McCORMICK. Thank you.

Congressman Holding, thanks for being here today. Thanks for your decades of great service and your market oriented perspective that I know you will bring to the EBRD, which is very relevant because many caution and warn that the EBRD has really strayed

from that markets orientation and has strayed from its core mission.

What reforms would you advocate to sharpen the EBRD's private sector mandate to better leverage private capital alongside EBRD financing, and what criteria would you consider and use for graduating countries?

Mr. HOLDING. Thank you, Senator. That is an excellent question.

The EBRD needs to be a demand signal to private capital, to particularly U.S. investors. I envision that if the EBRD is successful it will have a top tier vetting system—know your client, know your customer, the diligencing of your counterparties. I think that is one thing that keeps some U.S. private capital out of the markets that the EBRD is focused on, whether it be corruption or just not knowing your counterparties. But if the EBRD can have top class diligence on the counterparties, I think that will be a good way to attract private capital becoming involved in the deals that the EBRD does.

To the last part of your question, how do you graduate a country, should I be confirmed, one of the first things that I hope to learn more about is how is the EBRD looking at that right now. It is my understanding, just from my reading, the Czech Republic is the only country that has been graduated out of the EBRD's jurisdiction and mandate. And I would like to look at that process very closely and find ways to accelerate it, and have a clear criteria for how you do that. And I would be more than delighted to work with the committee as I learn more about that process.

Senator MCCORMICK. The fact that there is one example of a graduation is probably instructive.

Mr. HOLDING. Yes, sir.

Senator MCCORMICK. Thank you.

Senator DAINES. Senator Kaine.

Senator KAINE. Mr. Rodriguez, I want to come back to you. One of the challenges in Guatemala has been corruption, and at the request of the country in 2007, the U.N. established an anti-corruption organization called CICIG that then exercised some independence to engage in anti-corruption investigations and prosecutions, including people that were connected to the tenure of the two presidents, previous President Jimmy Morales. Morales refused to extend the mandate of CICIG. I believe it was in 2017 or 2018. And since that time there had been the emergence of a group known widely in Guatemala and elsewhere as the "pact of the corrupt," that included the Attorney General, General Porras. And this was the reason for her sanctioning.

That CICIG is not in operation any longer, but in conversations I think you suggested that you had concerns about CICIG's mandate in the sense of it may have been a violation of Guatemalan sovereignty. Obviously, battling corruption in Guatemala is really important, and that would be in the U.S. interest as well as in the interest of U.S. businesses that would want to participate in the Guatemalan economy.

Did you have concerns about CICIG, and you might describe that, but more generally, what do you think we should do to assist Guatemalan officials who want to battle the culture of corruption in the country?

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Senator Kaine, thank you very much for the question.

First of all, I want you to understand that I represented the Canadian company that had the very first case filed before CICIG, so I was very well aware of the organization. The problem with the organization is that it runs counter to our longstanding principle of allowing countries govern themselves and the principle of self-determination. And ultimately that is the struggle that was faced at the time, which is the reason why President Morales, at the time, refused to renew it. I think the way you—

Senator KAINE. Did you not believe that President Morales's decision was also based on his own concern about prosecution of folks connected to his administration for this climate of corruption?

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Senator, frankly, I was not there, and I do not know exactly the reasons why that happened. I am only aware of, from press reports, that was the stated reason was the threat to sovereignty.

But I think the way you deal with corruption is simply to strengthen the rule of law and the domestic institutions that are designed to fight corruption. If you want to fight corruption, strengthen the Attorney General's Office and the Ministerio Publico. And that is where the United States can be very instructive and persuasive.

Senator KAINE. I actually agree with you. That is the best way to fight corruption. CICIG was an instance where the Guatemalan government made its own decision that the culture of corruption was so endemic that they needed to ask the U.N. to come in and set up an independent agency to help them deal with that. And again, we are not talking today about reinstating CICIG 7 or 8 years later, but CICIG was not a completely outside actor. It was invited in by the Guatemalan government.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Absolutely.

Senator KAINE. But you are correct that the best way to deal with corruption is strong institutions, courts, fiscals, prosecutors, and others who are committed to the rule of law. And I would just encourage you, should you be confirmed, I hope you will dig into the reasons for the sanctioning of the current Attorney General, which I understand may be classified, and you are not able to access them now. But I think it is very, very important, having lived in Central America, and having spent some time in Guatemala, it is really important that the U.S. assist efforts to battle against a long history of corruption and open a new chapter that is the right chapter for Guatemala, and I would just encourage that on you.

And with that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Senator Kaine, I am committed to doing just that. Thank you.

Senator DAINES. Senator Shaheen.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Senator Kaine, and congratulations to all of our nominees this morning.

Welcome to you and your families and supporters who are here.

I want to start by just pointing out I am glad we are having this hearing this morning, because as we have commented in this committee multiple times, we are at a place where we have fewer than half of our ambassadorial posts filled around the world, at a time

when China has more diplomats than any other country on Earth. And given our competition with China, both economically and militarily, it is very important that we get ambassadors on the ground.

I want to begin with you, Mr. Owens. There is strong bipartisan, bicameral support for democracy in the country of Georgia, and any effort to restore bilateral ties should include commitments by the Georgian Dream, the current party in power there, to allow civil society, media, and opposition groups to operate without oppression and without intimidation. And I think the OSCE has a really critical role to play in doing this.

So can you talk about, if confirmed, how you might use your platform and work within the interagency to implement the recommendations of the Moscow Mechanism Report on Georgia?

Mr. OWENS. Thank you, Senator Shaheen. Thank you so much for that question. And before I answer I want to say it is great to see you again. When I was in uniform in Army Europe I had the pleasure of seeing you on several occasions and hosting you, and I really enjoyed our time together. So thank you very much for everything, and I appreciate your question.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you for your service.

Mr. OWENS. Thank you, ma'am.

And to be frank, I share your concern on Georgia. When I was at Army Europe in 2019, I can remember when they were one of our best allies. I remember we sent an entire brigade to travel the country, and we trained with them extensively and often, and it is heartbreaking to see what has happened in the past 6 years in Georgia.

So I definitely, absolutely share your concern, and I think, especially within the OSCE, I think there is a lot we can do, a lot of mechanisms we can do, especially regarding money laundering, anti-corruption, efforts to really try to stem the tide of Russian influence, and if I may, Chinese influence within Georgia.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you very much.

Another question for you. The OSCE has been critical in implementing the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. Member states voluntarily report annually on efforts by their security services to implement WPS commitments. So do you commit to ensuring that the U.S. fulfills its voluntary reporting requirement on Women, Peace, and Security?

Mr. OWENS. Thank you again for that question. This is an important issue for me.

I am not in the Department right now so I can't talk specifics about what is currently happening, but I will say that since I have a young family, I have a wife and young family, protecting women and children is of utmost importance. When the law was signed by President Trump in 2017, ever since then one of the key fundamental points of WPS was protecting women and children. I believe that is a Central American value. I think it perfectly aligns with the OSCE priorities.

I know the U.S. is one of the only nations in the world that has extensive planning processes in both the military and State Department to help protect women and children, and I think that separates us from our adversaries, especially in Russia, who clearly do not.

Senator SHAHEEN. I agree, and I would just point out that the Women, Peace, and Security Initiative is not just about protecting women and children. It is also about ensuring that women are participating in conflict negotiations, in decisionmaking in their states, countries.

Mr. Trachman—am I pronouncing your name correctly?

Mr. TRACHMAN. Trachman, Senator, like a track runner.

Senator SHAHEEN. In October 2025 Tanzania witnessed unprecedented violence which led up to and after their general election, and it is estimated that over 2,000 people were killed in state sponsored violence against protesters. I am going to be introducing bipartisan legislation with some other members that would mandate a comprehensive review of the U.S.-Tanzania relationship, that will assess our current and future relationship with the country.

So in light of upcoming elections in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nigeria, I think the continent is really watching our response to how we deal with what happened in Tanzania. If confirmed, what accountability measures and reforms would you advocate for with the government to address some of the violence and conflict around their elections?

Mr. TRACHMAN. Thank you for that question, Senator, and let me say that it was a privilege to meet with your staff last week.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you.

Mr. TRACHMAN. I completely agree that the October 2025 election raises serious questions about Tanzania's future and its trajectory as a partner for the United States. I saw that the commission report last week came out saying that only about 500 people died, and I think that commission report is not fully public yet. But in any event, Tanzania must be held to account. As I said in my opening statement, this will not be swept under the rug. This will be a part of a comprehensive bilateral review that is already ongoing. I look forward to seeing and considering the legislation that you just mentioned.

Human liberty is the foundation of prosperity and stability. My background in civil rights, free speech, and free association I think is an indicator that this Administration also cares about the presence of those things in the country.

Senator SHAHEEN. Good. Well, I would just point out that the officials in Tanzania responded pretty dramatically to comments about how they behaved, so I think there is a real opportunity for U.S. Ambassador to make a point here that the people of the country will listen to.

Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TRACHMAN. Thank you, Senator.

Senator DAINES. Senator Cruz, I know you are coming in hot here, but you are up.

Senator CRUZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it.

Good morning. Welcome.

Mr. Trachman, let's start with you. Tanzania is engaged in a sustained and escalating assault on religious freedom. The government is carrying out a deliberate campaign to intimidate Christians and to suppress religious activity. In the lead up to the October 2025 election Tanzanian authorities barred Christian gatherings, re-

stricted church activity, and weaponized state power to control religious expression. Those elections were marked by the dismantling of opposition parties and the arrest and abduction of political leaders.

Look at Nigeria. This is how it unfolds. The persecution of Christians is downplayed by senior officials while violence escalates, especially in Nigeria's Middle Belt, with zero accountability. We should not repeat that mistake in Tanzania.

The Trump administration was right to initiate a review of the U.S.-Tanzania relationship. The ongoing repression of Christians should be met with consequences. Do you believe that Tanzania is engaging in serious religious freedom violations?

Mr. TRACHMAN. Thank you for that question, Senator. I absolutely am aware of and agree with your observations about the banning of opposition parties and targeting of Christians before the October 2025 election and the bilateral view that is ongoing and that will hold Tanzania to account. That is a critical part of the ongoing bilateral review. And it is a nonnegotiable for me. As someone who cares deeply about religious freedom and has litigated in that area, that is something I am especially attuned to. And I will be keenly observing what threats continue in the country, and ensuring that is part of the bilateral review.

There is a provision in the Tanzanian Constitution guaranteeing the freedom of religion. Those are words that have to have meaning, and as Justice Scalia said, it is easy to make those promises on paper. That is not enough. They have to be lived.

Senator CRUZ. Well, thank you for being vigilant on that. It is needed.

Mr. Rodriguez, migration from Guatemala continues to directly impact the United States. Human smuggling networks have moved tens of thousands of Guatemalan migrants into the United States. Transnational criminal organizations profit off chaos at our border and undermine U.S. law enforcement efforts.

When I traveled last fall to El Salvador, Panama, and Mexico, I saw firsthand how migration routes are organized and facilitated across the region. Guatemala sits at the center of that flow, both as a source country and as a transit country.

We should continue engaging Guatemala on counternarcotics, cartel activity, and illegal immigration, and recent efforts to strengthen port security and build Guatemala's first centralized targeting center serve as cornerstones of the U.S.-Guatemala relationship. We are moving in the right direction, but more should be done.

What specific steps will you take to reduce illegal immigration from Guatemala to the United States and to make sure that that reduction is long term?

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Senator Cruz, thank you.

I think the primary focus has to be in developing more inter-agency involvement with Guatemala's police and law enforcement. We already provide training, we have vetted groups inside of Guatemala, we provide financial assistance for the training, and I think that has to be furthered. And my understanding is that the Arévalo administration has been very cooperative with the United States in that regard.

Senator CRUZ. Additionally in Guatemala, the Chinese Communist Party is aggressively working to flip Guatemala and to strip Taiwan of one of its last remaining allies in the Western Hemisphere. This is part of a broader campaign to isolate Taiwan, to erode its global standing, and to expand Beijing's influence in our own backyard. Panama and Honduras were promised economic opportunity after cutting ties, but what they got instead were opaque deals and deeper dependence on Beijing. Now the Chinese Communist Party is applying the same model in Guatemala, targeting political and business elites to push a break with Taipei.

What would it mean for U.S. interests if Guatemala flips from Taiwan to China, and if confirmed, what is your plan to ensure that Guatemala stays aligned with Taiwan, and more broadly, aligned with the United States rather than China?

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. It would be a blow to national security if Guatemala were to flip its support from Taiwan to China. In my view, the way to counteract the economic coercion of China, because that is what it does, is to encourage more direct foreign investment in Guatemala by the Taiwanese government and by the United States. I think the United States can be doing a lot more with respect to countering malign influences of China, for example, in the cybersecurity area. I think we can do a lot more to encourage the cell phone company, for example, to migrate away from the Huawei software. There is no reason why the cell phone company, which is owned by a United States holding company, cannot be using a trusted vendor from the United States for its backbone.

Senator CRUZ. Thank you.

Senator DAINES. Senator Cruz, thank you, and a sincere thank you to all the witnesses for attending today and providing us with the benefit of your testimony and willingness to serve.

For the information of members, the record will remain open until the close of business tomorrow; that is April 29. We ask the witnesses to respond as promptly as possible. Your responses will also be made a part of the official record. With the thanks of the committee, the hearing is now adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:05 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

Additional Material Submitted for the Record

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED TO DARRELL OWENS BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

Question. Do you assess that the Russian Federation is violating any elements of the Helsinki Final Act? (E.g., respect for equality, respect rights inherent in sovereignty, refraining from the threat or use of force, etc.)

Answer. Russia's actions in Ukraine contravene the founding principles of the Helsinki Final Act, including commitments to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other participating states, refrain from the threat or use of force, and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms—all of which are essential to lasting security. I believe we must be clear-eyed about Russia's transgressions, frank in addressing our concerns about their actions, and resolute in defending our principles.

Question. For each element that you assess Russia is or may be violating, how should the OSCE respond?

Answer. I believe that dialogue is essential to resolve differences and move toward lasting peace. The OSCE, with its 57-nation membership, provides one venue for

spotlighting and calling nations to account for actions that contravene foundational principles and for dialogue to address concerns and seek solutions. If confirmed, I would aim to use all the resources of the organization to support the President's effort to find a lasting peace in Ukraine and promote cooperation between members. If confirmed, I will seek to build security for Americans through candid dialogue both with our democratic Allies and partners and with countries whose governments engage in adversarial behavior contrary to our interests and values, including Russia.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO JUAN RODRIGUEZ BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

Good Governance

Question. Impunity, rooted in the erosion of judicial independence, is the central driver of rising crime, violence and corruption in Guatemala. What concrete steps should Guatemala take to address impunity?

Answer. Guatemala must decide what changes are in its national interest. However, as a representative of the U.S. Government, I would hope any changes ensure U.S. law enforcement agencies have capable and dependable partners in our shared effort to combat narco-terrorists in the region.

Question. In recent years, there have been many high-profile efforts by political actors in Guatemala to undermine democratic governance, including efforts to prevent President Arévalo's inauguration following his electoral victory. What role do you believe the U.S. embassy and U.S. foreign assistance should play in supporting democratic institutions and processes in Guatemala?

Answer. The primary role of the U.S. embassy and U.S. foreign assistance is to advance U.S. policies and priorities abroad that protect and defend U.S. interests and U.S. citizens. A stable and democratic Guatemala is one of our priorities.

Foreign assistance is a critical tool of American foreign policy. Our America First approach means we deploy our resources in a strategic and targeted fashion to advance our core diplomatic priorities and deliver tangible returns for the U.S. and for the American people. Every dollar we spend must be justified by clear strategic objectives and measurable outcomes that benefit American interests.

Question. Experts widely consider this to be one of the most important electoral years in Guatemala, particularly for its judiciary, given the selection of members for the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, Constitutional Court and Attorney General's office. Next year, Guatemala is scheduled to hold general elections for both President and Congress. Do you commit to ensuring that neither you nor any U.S. embassy personnel interfere in Guatemala's elections on behalf of any particular candidate or party?

Answer. I fully commit to ensuring that neither I nor any U.S. embassy personnel interfere in Guatemala's elections on behalf of any particular candidate or party.

Violence and Insecurity

Question. Gang violence continues to be a significant security issue in Guatemala, particularly in the country's prison system. What increased efforts would you like to see between the U.S. and Guatemala to address gang violence and insecurity in Guatemala?

Answer. I understand Guatemala is working closely with the U.S. Government to counter gang activities, including those of MS-13 and Barrio 18, which are now designated by both the United States and Guatemala as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs). For example, in an effort to address gang violence, Guatemala is one of the first countries in the world to implement U.S. biometrics operations in prisons, allowing U.S. law enforcement, including at ports of entry, to access this information to counter FTO activity.

If confirmed, I would seek to strengthen law enforcement collaboration and further leverage this new designation and related authorities to counter FTOs threatening U.S. security and commercial interests.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO WILLIAM TRACHMAN BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

Democracy and Good Governance

Question. If confirmed, would you use your position to call for the release of opposition leader Tundu Lissu, who has been imprisoned and charged with treason in Tanzania?

Answer. If confirmed, I will encourage the Government of Tanzania to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all its citizens, including Tundu Lissu.

Question. In your opinion, does democracy and good governance matter for a successful business environment for U.S. companies?

Answer. I believe that good governance that creates stable, transparent, and market-oriented business environments matter for U.S. companies' success. If confirmed, I will encourage Tanzania to pursue reforms that strengthen rule of law and reduce corruption, helping to ensure that U.S. companies are competing on a level playing field in Tanzania.

Competition with China

Question. What are some of the ways the U.S. can counter China's influence in Tanzania?

Answer. I am concerned by Tanzania's frequent choice to prioritize opaque deals with China over transparent partnerships with the United States and our allies. If confirmed, I will work to demonstrate that partnership with the United States offers a strong and reliable path to delivering tangible benefits for both nations. I understand key U.S. comparative advantages in Tanzania's increasingly competitive strategic environment include long-standing health sector leadership in HIV/AIDS and malaria initiatives, transparent business practices, responsible critical minerals development, and robust private sector engagement. Furthermore, I will advocate for the codification of predictable business conditions by Tanzania's National Assembly so that U.S. companies are able to invest and compete in Tanzania and to enter economic sectors where China currently has an outsized presence.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO WILLIAM TRACHMAN BY SENATOR CHRISTOPHER A. COONS

Question. If confirmed, will you commit to making the completion of a responsible, transparent, and technically sound U.S.-Tanzania global health MOU a priority?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to advancing a comprehensive and shared vision between the United States and Tanzania for continued future cooperation on global health issues that maximizes the impact of American health assistance, strengthens our bilateral relationship, promotes American innovations, stops the spread of disease, and helps Tanzania move toward more resilient and durable health systems.

Question. Will you ensure that malaria remains a core component of that agreement?

Answer. The America First Global Health Strategy utilizes Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) to establish frameworks that maximize the impact of U.S. assistance, strengthen bilateral relationships, promote American innovations, and facilitate sustainable, country-led health systems that can effectively contain health threats. I understand that a key component of a bilateral arrangement will be staying committed to the ambitious goals that the United States has set over the past decades for combatting the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and polio while prioritizing maternal and child health, disease surveillance, and infectious disease outbreak preparedness. For malaria, my understanding is that specific goals include reducing malaria deaths, appropriately treating confirmed malaria cases, and ensuring that appropriate prevention methods are distributed to populations at risk of malaria.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO WILLIAM TRACHMAN BY SENATOR CORY A. BOOKER

Strategic Competition with China: China is Tanzania's largest trading partner, with PRC firms active across infrastructure construction, tele-

communications, natural resource extraction, and other key sectors. China's longstanding historical ties with Tanzania further contribute to a competitive environment for U.S. engagement and efforts to deepen the bilateral relationship.

Question. If confirmed, what specific steps will you take to advance the U.S. partnership with Tanzania by leveraging U.S. comparative advantages in an increasingly competitive strategic environment?

Answer. I am concerned by Tanzania's frequent choice to prioritize opaque deals with China over transparent partnerships with the United States. If confirmed, I will work to demonstrate that partnership with the United States offers a strong and reliable path to delivering tangible benefits for both nations. I understand key U.S. comparative advantages in Tanzania's increasingly competitive strategic environment include long-standing health sector leadership in HIV/AIDS and malaria initiatives, transparent business practices, responsible critical minerals development, and robust private sector engagement. Furthermore, I will advocate for the codification of predictable business conditions by Tanzania's National Assembly so that U.S. companies are able to invest and compete in Tanzania and to enter economic sectors where China currently has an outsized presence.

Question. Please identify the tools, programs, or metrics you would prioritize to assess progress.

Answer. To assess progress on the U.S.-Tanzania partnership, I would take into account the commercial outcomes facilitated by the U.S.-Tanzania Commercial Dialogue, the financing for infrastructure and critical minerals projects mobilized by the Development Finance Corporation and Export-Import Bank, and the pursuit of a bilateral health cooperation arrangement under the America First Global Health Strategy with clear benchmarks and co-investment commitments. If confirmed, I look forward to further discussing the tools, programs, or metrics best positioned to measure progress in the U.S.-Tanzania partnership.

Election Violence in Tanzania: In your testimony, you expressed concerns regarding the October 2025 elections in Tanzania and the subsequent election related violence. You highlighted that these events have raised serious questions about Tanzania's democratic trajectory and its reliability as a stable partner of the U.S.

Question. If confirmed, how will you engage with the Tanzanian government to ensure it lives up to its commitment to promote credible, transparent, democratic and peaceful electoral processes in future elections?

Answer. The Trump Administration has been clear it does not seek to lecture other countries but encourages sovereign states to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of their citizens. If confirmed, I will engage constructively with Tanzanian counterparts on governance and human rights concerns and encourage Tanzania to pursue reforms that strengthen rule of law, reduce corruption, and expand civic space for civil society and media.

Question. If confirmed, do you plan to engage with civil society organizations in Tanzania?

Answer. If confirmed, I plan to engage with civil society organizations in Tanzania.

Question. If so, how do you plan to engage with civil society organizations to promote the protection of human rights, democracy, responsive governance, and free and fair elections?

Answer. I would engage candidly and respectfully with Tanzanian civil society organizations on the issues of governance and human rights, including concerns about civic space and the ability of religious and community leaders to operate freely.

Question. Will protecting human rights, promoting democracy, strengthening responsive governance, and supporting free and fair elections in Tanzania be priorities for you, if confirmed?

Answer. If confirmed, I will advocate that the Government of Tanzania respects citizens' human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Advancing US-Tanzania Health Sector: In your testimony, you state that you plan to advance American leadership in the health sector in Tanzania. The Trump administration's America First Global Health Strategy includes bilateral health cooperation agreements with countries that receive U.S. global health assistance. As of April 2026, 32 countries have signed bilateral health cooperation MOUs with the U.S.

Question. Is a bilateral health memorandum of understanding being considered or negotiated between Tanzania?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to working with the State Department to consider options for a bilateral health cooperation arrangement in line with the America First Global Health Strategy.

Question. If so, what specific global health areas would such an MOU with Tanzania cover?

Answer. The America First Global Health Strategy utilizes Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) to establish frameworks that maximize the impact of U.S. assistance, strengthen bilateral relationships, promote American innovations, and facilitate sustainable, country-led health systems that can effectively contain health threats. I understand that a key component of a bilateral health cooperation arrangement will be staying committed to the ambitious goal that the United States has set over the past decades for combatting the spread of HIV/AIDs, tuberculosis, malaria, and polio while prioritizing maternal and child health, disease surveillance, and infectious disease outbreak preparedness.

Question. What is your assessment of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and malaria programs in Tanzania, including their principal successes and key remaining challenges?

Answer. The United States has a long track record of investing in Tanzania's health sector, and our health partnership remains one of the most powerful examples of U.S.-Tanzania cooperation. While U.S. investments have significantly reduced HIV and malaria incidence in Tanzania and helped save millions of lives, directly supporting U.S. goals of fostering stable, healthy populations that can contribute to economic development, and the Government of Tanzania has incrementally increased its support for health commodities over the past several years, I understand Tanzania still relies heavily on the U.S. Government and the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria for the majority of HIV and malaria commodities. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that our health programs continue delivering results while building more self-reliant health systems in Tanzania, in line with the America First Global Health Strategy.

Opposition Leader Tundu Lissu: Since April 2025, opposition leader and Presidential candidate Tundu Lissu has remained in prison on treason charges. His detention has raised concerns among many observers and human rights organizations that the case may be politically motivated as he was arrested for promoting free and fair elections in Tanzania. Lissu is going through a lengthy trial process, and U.N. human rights monitors have asserted that he is arbitrarily detained.

Question. If confirmed, how would you utilize your position as Ambassador to advocate for his safe and secure release?

Answer. If confirmed, I will encourage the Government of Tanzania to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all its citizens, including Tundu Lissu. I look forward to working with this committee and the State Department to identify the most effective ways to address our concerns.

Strengthening U.S.-Tanzania Relations: The Trump administration has been focused on critical mineral access across Africa. Critical mineral supply chains are a national security concern; however, they cannot be the sole basis of our relationships across the continent.

Question. If confirmed, what other areas of mutual interests either economically or socially would you prioritize in strengthening the U.S.-Tanzania relationship?

Answer. Our two countries have a long history of working together to strengthen trade, security cooperation, public health, and regional stability. If confirmed, I would prioritize unlocking commercial opportunities that benefit both our economies, expanding cooperation on shared challenges in maritime security and counter-narcotics, protecting our citizens from emerging health threats, and promoting regional stability in East Africa. I look forward to the opportunity to advance our America First goals in Tanzania and to deepen our longstanding, mutually prosperous bilateral relationship.

Maasai Tribe: Since 2022, the Tanzanian government has taken steps to remove the Maasai from conservation areas. The government's tactics include reclassifying village land as game reserve land. Estimates suggest more than 20,000 Maasai have been impacted by evictions or relocations from their lands.

Question. What is your understanding of the Maasai tribe in Tanzania and the importance of preserving their land?

Answer. I understand the Government of Tanzania continues to pressure Maasai people to vacate ancestral grazing lands in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Loliondo division of northern Tanzania for conservation purposes, and that this has prompted resistance from the Maasai that has at times escalated to include protests, violent clashes, and mass arrests.

Question. If confirmed, how would you advocate for their civil rights and protections to remain on their historical land?

Answer. If confirmed, I will encourage the Government of Tanzania to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all its citizens, including the Maasai people, and emphasize the importance of allowing all communities to coexist peacefully.

