

**Opening Statement for William Trachman  
Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
April 28, 2026**

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.