

Statement of John Breslow
Nominee to the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
April 16, 2026

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and esteemed Members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus. I thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their trust and confidence in me, and I am grateful to this Committee for considering my nomination.

I was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, a community that instilled in me from an early age a respect for hard work, public responsibility, and the importance of civic life. For more than fifty years, I have been fortunate to share my life with my wife, Sonia. Together we raised three daughters, and we are now proud grandparents to five grandchildren. Family has been the constant foundation of my life and the source of perspective that keeps professional responsibilities grounded in enduring values.

My professional career was spent primarily in the private sector, where I served as owner and Chairman of the Board of Linweld, Inc., which grew into one of the largest industrial gas and welding supply companies in the United States. Building and leading that organization reinforced the importance of trust, accountability, and long-term partnerships—principles that translate directly into effective international relationships.

Public service has been a defining element of my life. In 1990, I was elected Nebraska State Auditor and was honored to be reelected in 1994. In that role, I focused on stewardship, transparency, and the careful management of public resources. In 1998, I ran for Governor of Nebraska, an experience that further deepened my respect for democratic institutions and the responsibilities entrusted to those who serve within them.

I have had the privilege of serving on numerous civic and nonprofit boards, including Swift Transportation, the Lincoln Human Rights Commission, the Lincoln YMCA Board, and as Chairman of the Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation. These roles strengthened my belief that durable institutions depend on collaboration, mutual respect, and commitment to the common good.

Outside my professional life, I pursued aviation for nearly five decades, flying most recently as a single-pilot in a Cessna CJ3. Aviation reinforced discipline, judgment, and respect for systems—lessons equally relevant in public leadership. I am also an automobile enthusiast who believes that craftsmanship is best understood through use and experience. If confirmed, I would bring these experiences and principles to the critical mission of representing American interests in Cyprus.

The enduring friendship between the United States and the Republic of Cyprus (ROC) is built upon a foundation of a mutually beneficial collaboration and a steadfast commitment to peace. Our bilateral relations are rooted in a shared vision for stability and prosperity in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean. Since the December 2018 signing of a Statement of Intent on bilateral security cooperation and the passage of the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019, the U.S.-ROC security relationship has deepened significantly.

Through growing economic collaboration and robust security cooperation, the United States continues to strengthen these bonds. This includes training and exercises with the state of New Jersey through the State Partnership Program. Cyprus's strategic importance—at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa—makes its partnership vital to American interests and to the broader transatlantic community.

If confirmed, my first priority will be to protect the safety and security of Americans in the Republic of Cyprus. The ROC has proven a valued and reliable partner to the United States to assist U.S. citizens evacuating out of crisis areas, including in recent years.

Our cooperation is making the region more resilient to dangerous actors and keeping America safe. Our strong relations have earned the confidence of American companies to establish operations or expand their presence on the island. If confirmed, I will work tirelessly to strengthen this partnership, ensuring that our diplomatic efforts translate into tangible benefits for the American people.

By advancing trade and investment opportunities, we will make our economies more competitive and our nations more prosperous. Above all, if confirmed, I will carry forward the spirit of collaboration that defines the U.S.-ROC relationship and will continue to champion a Cypriot-led, UN-facilitated effort to reunify the island as a bizonal, bicomunal federation with political equality for all Cypriots

consistent with relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Our shared ideals and mutual aspirations offer a clear path toward a safer, stronger, and more prosperous future for both nations. If confirmed, I will seek to build a partnership that not only reflects our shared values but also delivers meaningful progress for generations to come.

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