**Statement of Somers Farkas**

**Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to Malta**

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**

**May 8, 2025**

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and ladies and gentlemen of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you as President Donald J. Trump’s nominee to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta. Senator Scott thank you also for those kind words.

I would like to thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their trust and confidence; I am humbled. I am also grateful to this committee for considering my nomination.

If you allow me the privilege to serve America, I will count on our continued discussions and coordination to advance President Trump’s key America First priorities in the context of our shared – yes, shared – fundamental commitment to making America safer, more secure, and more prosperous. Together we will unleash her glorious destiny.

I would like to acknowledge my devotion and faith in GOD, his SON, and HOLY SPIRIT, who not only saved the life of our great President Trump, but who have also led me here today.

Additional recognition and love for my husband Jonathan Farkas; his Mother, Ruth Farkas who served as the United States Ambassador to Luxembourg; I would be honored to follow in her footsteps of diplomatic service.

My sisters, Kellam and Caramine White, whose support I cherish. My Father, Isaac Somers White, served our country in the Korean War, and my Mother, Caramine Kellam, inspired me to lead a life of purpose and patriotism. I credit my Virginia upbringing and Mother for making me the woman I am, for, it was she who taught me to leave my corner of the world better than I found it.

It has been said there is no greater honor than to serve one’s country. For decades, I have worked on programs and initiatives dedicated to veterans, law enforcement officers, and their families. I also serve as a Trustee for the New York City Police Foundation.

Recalling my Mother’s words, I maintain a strong involvement in public affairs and have been active in philanthropy.

I am especially grateful to President Trump for giving me the opportunity to serve on the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships and the Commission on Presidential Scholars during his first term.

This august Committee knows well that Malta sits at a critical location between northern Africa and southern Europe. The Republic of Malta is a notable partner; our bilateral relationship has deepened significantly on many priorities, ranging from fortifying security in the Mediterranean Sea to expanding economic and commercial ties across the continent.

My experience as a businesswoman, strategist and philanthropist will enable me to strengthen our valued relationship with this important archipelago.  Three priorities will guide my work:

First and foremost, my priority will be to protect the safety and welfare of United States citizens living or traveling in Malta.

If confirmed, I will also ensure the promotion of regional peace, security, and stability.  Simply, Malta is integral to the European Union. It has played an important role in Europe; In 2024, Malta served as Chair-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and as President of the UN Security Council in February 2023.

Malta is at the crossroads of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East, and is along the Mediterranean Sea’s principal shipping routes.

Thirty percent of the world’s annual merchant shipping passes through near waters. America and Malta share a common interest in safeguarding freedom of navigation.

If confirmed, I will work to solidify our cooperation with Malta to advance America’s interests on regional security and multilateral issues.

My second priority will be to promote prosperity, trade, and invigorate people’s diplomacy, a phrase coined by Eugenie Anderson, America’s first female Ambassador. If confirmed, I will seek to identify common bilateral interests and foster cultural diplomacy.

I will also work to increase U.S. and Maltese economic ties with the goal of promoting opportunities for United States trade and investment, including in the energy sector.

Malta has the potential to become a destination for American LNG exports; American expertise can play a fundamental role in diversifying Malta’s energy sector.

So too, through Malta’s engagement in the European Union, I will work with my colleagues to ensure continued growth and prosperity for Malta and for the American people.

President Trump has taken bold actions to make America and the world safe again. My third priority will be to counter transnational crime, strengthen international law enforcement agency cooperation, and stem illegal migration. If confirmed, I will enhance our cooperation with Malta to counter nefarious activities, including illicit financing, smuggling, and sanctions evasion.

Malta faces significant challenges with illegal migration, as well as trafficking in persons and drugs. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Republic of Malta to address these challenges.

It too will be a privilege to lead the outstanding Embassy Valletta team.

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and Members of the Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I welcome your questions.