

Statement of Howard W. Brodie
Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Finland
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am honored and humbled by President Trump's nomination to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Finland. I thank the President and the Secretary of State for their confidence and for entrusting me with advancing the three fundamental pillars of American foreign policy—**strength, security, and prosperity**. I also want to express my gratitude to this Committee for its vital role in shaping and overseeing our foreign policy.

I would also like to thank Senator McCormick for his generous introduction and support.

It is often said that serving overseas is a family endeavor. In that spirit, I want to thank my wife, Jimena—a recent immigrant from Mexico and soon-to-be proud American—for her love and excitement about moving our family to Finland, if I am confirmed. I am also joined today by my parents, whose guidance and unwavering support have shaped my values. My father is a true example of the American dream: after losing his own father at a young age, he helped care for his family and, alongside his brother, founded a small business in his basement that grew into a successful multinational specialty chemical and life sciences company.

My mother, the keeper of our family memories, recently reminded me that I once dreamed of a career in diplomacy. While my path led me first into international business law, this moment brings those early aspirations full circle.

I was born and raised in Pennsylvania and attended Yale Law School. Over the past three decades, I have worked at the intersection of law, global

investment, and business—most recently as Co-President and General Counsel of my family office. I've negotiated deals worldwide, studied at Oxford, and lived and studied in Russia from 1990 to 1992.

During my time in Russia, I witnessed pivotal events—the Soviet crackdown in the Baltics, the August 1991 coup attempt, and the collapse of the Soviet Union. These experiences shaped my understanding of the region and the resilience of nations on Russia's periphery.

Few understand those challenges better than Finland, sharing an 830-mile land border with Russia. Its recent accession to NATO reinforces collective defense and highlights Finland's role as a capable, reliable partner. Our bilateral Defense Cooperation Agreement enhances readiness and ensures strategic access in the region. Finland's support for Ukraine and its investments in defense demonstrate a strong commitment to transatlantic security.

As the United States advances its Arctic strategy and maintains freedom of navigation in the Arctic, Finland's geographic position and deep cold-weather expertise make it an indispensable partner. As part of the Icebreaker Collaboration Effort—or ICE Pact—our two nations are engaging in workforce development and maritime innovation to revitalize U.S. shipbuilding and support American jobs. Finland's leadership in quantum computing and 5G and 6G are equally vital to countering strategic threats from China.

Finland also plays a critical role in our economic relationship: it is one of the fastest growing sources of foreign direct investment in the United States. Finnish firms support tens of thousands of American jobs. Finland is also a key partner in securing the critical minerals needed for defense and high-tech manufacturing—bolstering the resilience of U.S. supply chains.

All of this ties back to my four core priorities if confirmed: protecting U.S. citizens in Finland as my highest priority; deepening our bilateral security ties and NATO cooperation; strengthening Arctic and maritime

collaboration; and expanding technological and economic ties with Finland with the goal of reducing our trade deficit.

The Finnish national epic, the *Kalevala*, tells of the forging of the **Sampo**—a mythical object of prosperity created through innovation, effort, and resolve. In one passage, it reads:

The smith Ilmarinen
forged the Sampo with skill:
on one side there's a corn mill
on the second a salt mill
a money mill on the third.
And then the new Sampo ground
one binful to eat
another to sell
and a third to store at home

Though the Sampo is mythical, it is an apt metaphor for the values we hold in common with our Finnish partners. The grain it mills symbolizes self-sufficiency—the belief that a nation should sustain itself through its own labor. The salt evokes trade, and our shared commitment to it being fair and mutually beneficial. And the money represents national strength—the prosperity that enables us to defend freedom and invest in the future.

I am eager to join the deeply experienced and capable team at Mission Helsinki. If confirmed, I will work to support their mission, morale, and safety every day. Thank you again for your consideration. I look forward to your questions and, if confirmed, to serving our country with honor and integrity in Helsinki.