

Statement of The Honorable André Bauer
Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to Belize
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 18, 2026

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, thank you for the honor and privilege to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as United States Ambassador to Belize. I am honored by the confidence President Trump has placed in me through this nomination.

I would like to begin by thanking God for His many blessings and the opportunities that brought me here today. I would like to thank my wife, Meredith, who is here with me, for her unwavering love and support. I am also grateful to have our children here with us, Holland, Hudson, Holden, and André Wesley, whose presence in my life has been a continual source of joy, perspective, and purpose. Additionally, I am eternally grateful to my parents for the sacrifices they made and the values they instilled in me.

Throughout my life, I have served in a variety of roles, including as a substitute teacher, entrepreneur, and real estate developer. In South Carolina, I served in the House of Representatives, the State Senate, and as Lieutenant Governor. In each of these roles, I worked collaboratively with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address the concerns of constituents, improve government services, and bring attention to issues that had too often been overlooked.

The United States and Belize share a strong bilateral relationship. The United States is Belize's largest source of tourism, with more than 1 million Americans visiting annually. Additionally, more than 85,000 Belizeans live in the United States, further strengthening the close ties between our two nations.

Tourism remains a vital driver of Belize's economy, supporting jobs and economic opportunity throughout the country. If confirmed, I look forward to working alongside Belizean leaders to strengthen economic ties between our nations, support continued growth in tourism and trade, and expand avenues for cooperation and investment.

Having spent much of my career in the private sector, I understand the power of U.S. business and investment. If confirmed, I will work to strengthen commercial ties between our two countries. Creating a stable investment climate where U.S. business can grow and investment can flourish is essential to expanding opportunities for the citizens of both our countries.

Belize and the United States also enjoy a strong partnership in security cooperation. Belize works closely with the United States to combat narcotics trafficking, human trafficking, and transnational criminal activity. The United States continues to support Belize through programs focused on counternarcotics, border security, and criminal deterrence. If confirmed, I will work diligently to continue supporting efforts that promote security, stability, and safer communities for both Belizeans and American citizens. I will also work to ensure Belize remains a reliable partner in countering the risk posed by the Chinese Communist Party to Hemispheric security and prosperity.

Protecting the safety and interests of United States citizens abroad will remain my highest priority. As we work together to address shared challenges, we must also continue advancing areas of mutual opportunity. Belize presents growing opportunities for American investment in areas including tourism and economic development that can benefit both of our nations.

If confirmed, I will serve with the same work ethic, determination, and commitment that have guided me throughout my life and career. I will work to advance the interests and values of the United States while strengthening our partnership with Belize and its people.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. It would be the honor of a lifetime to represent the United States as Ambassador to Belize. I look forward to answering your questions.