

Statement of Juan P. Segura
Nominee to be Assistant Secretary of State
for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Thursday, June 18, 2026

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen and distinguished Members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as the next Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

I am grateful for the confidence President Trump, and Secretary Rubio have placed in me at this watershed moment in our engagement with the Hemisphere. I'd also like to thank my family who in part are here today. They truly are the bedrock of my life.

To my wife and partner, Cecilia, I love you and thank you for everything you do, every day. I would be nothing without your support and belief.

To my parents, Enrique and Alejandra: thank you for always challenging me and for setting a beautiful example of faith, hard work, and great sacrifice. It is truly through the eyes of my parents, who came to this great country with nothing more than 40 years ago, that I first came to understand the WHY of the United States of America.

From as young as I can remember, three words would ring true at the Segura kitchen table: "Never Give Up." Whether it was in sports, in school, or in building companies, where there was a will, there was a way. And as I reflect on my own story, of building a healthcare company to be one of the largest maternal monitoring companies in the world, to leading economic growth and international trade for the great Commonwealth of Virginia, a state that has a GDP of more than \$620 billion a year, "never giving up" is how we overcame seemingly impossible obstacles.

I believe this administration will never give up on the hope for America and its people. And how America works with and partners with the "Americas".

President Trump's National Security Strategy underscores the critical importance of the Western Hemisphere. The Trump Administration has set an ambitious

agenda that includes securing our border, defeating narcoterrorist groups, securing critical infrastructure, and expanding economic opportunities for Americans.

The National Security Strategy also outlines the United States will reassert the Monroe Doctrine to restore American preeminence in the Western Hemisphere and push back on the influence of global adversaries and malign actors in the region.

The Trump Administration is aggressively implementing this strategy with regional partners, expanding cooperation bilaterally as well as enlisting partners in new initiatives including the Shield of Americas, the Americas Counter Cartel Coalition, and a Critical Minerals Ministerial to build secure and resilient supply chains.

As a former Virginia Secretary of Commerce, I am particularly enthusiastic about the Trump Administration's prioritization of commercial diplomacy in the Western Hemisphere. If confirmed, I look forward to employing all available tools to ensure American companies are well positioned to help our regional partners build their economies.

As the National Security Strategy notes, an economically stronger Western Hemisphere is not only a more attractive market for American companies and investment, but increased commercial linkages will benefit both sides and reduce the space and influence of non-Hemispheric actors. This will require closer coordination with the American private sector and this coordination is a role I am eager to embrace drawing on my professional background as a former entrepreneur and investor.

If confirmed, I look forward to leading the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs to enlist the cooperation of our regional allies, the private sector, and Congress to advance the Trump administration's ambitious agenda for the Americas.

Thank you for your consideration. I welcome your questions.