

Statement of Nominee Noreika
Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 25, 2026

Chairman Hagerty, Ranking Member, and Distinguished Members of the Committee, it is an honor and privilege to appear before you today. I am honored to be the nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania, and I thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their confidence in me.

I would like to begin by recognizing those who have made it possible for me to be where I am. My parents Alex and Gloria who taught me the virtues of faith and hard work. My older sisters Gloriana and Maryellen, who have always taken care of me, and my wife Cristina and our three daughters, Alexa, Erika and Sophie who have joined us here today.

If confirmed, my first priority will be to ensure the security and welfare of U.S. citizens in Lithuania and the people of our Mission. I will also work to advance U.S. interests, encouraging Lithuania's engagement as a reliable NATO ally, deepening our bilateral trade and entrepreneurship ties, and combating regional threats and transnational crime.

Mr. Chairman, the United States and Lithuania celebrated 104 years of uninterrupted bilateral relations this year. The relationship has been marked by deep cooperation in the areas that matter most. Lithuania exemplifies what it means to be a committed member of NATO. Following the call by President Trump, Lithuania immediately announced commitments to exceed 5 percent of GDP on defense spending. This year it will exceed that mark and lead the Alliance in defense spending as a percentage of GDP. Lithuania invests in military capabilities – including U.S. systems – that add real capability to our collective security. It hosts U.S. and NATO forces, using national funds to improve facilities and ensure military readiness. Lithuania deploys globally on security and peace missions, even as it polices its own borders.

President Trump has been clear that NATO Allies must meet their obligations. The United States will no longer subsidize nations that refuse to pay their fair share for transatlantic security. This is a point that Lithuania understands and has, for years, pressed other European Allies on. If confirmed, I will work to ensure Lithuania continues this path, and becomes stronger, more capable, and able

to contribute to its own defense. Together, we will strengthen European defense, improve the credibility of the collective security architecture, and dissuade adversaries.

Our two countries cooperate broadly on an array of issues including sharing threat information, participating in joint exercises, and providing law enforcement training. The Pennsylvania National Guard, Lithuania's state partner for more than 30 years, helps provide much of this expertise. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing our strong cooperation on these issues.

Lithuania shares U.S. concerns about China's strategic alignment with malign actors and pattern of economic coercion, especially in Europe. It is outspoken in the EU and elsewhere about Western Hemisphere issues, including human rights abuses of Cuba's regime. And Lithuania is a friend of Israel. If confirmed, I will work with the Lithuanian government to develop the peace through strength that President Trump has called for.

If confirmed, I will work to deepen U.S. trade and investment ties with Lithuania to benefit the prosperity of both our peoples. Lithuanian companies are creating jobs in the United States, and Lithuania's vibrant economy has long been an attractive destination for investment by U.S. companies. Nowhere is this truer than in the area of energy. More than 75 percent of Lithuanian liquified natural gas imports now come from the United States, and as Lithuania looks to purchase small modular nuclear reactors, there are abundant opportunities to deepen our energy relationship. Lithuania shares our view on keeping markets open with low regulation and taxes.

Mr. Chairman, the relationship between the United States and Lithuania is strong and helps secure core U.S. interests. Lithuania has played an active role in advancing our shared security and economic priorities. If confirmed by the Senate, I look forward to deepening our cooperation to confront shared challenges and promote U.S. interests.

Again, I am grateful for the opportunity to appear before you today and I welcome your questions. Thank you.