

NOMINATIONS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:01 a.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Pete Ricketts presiding.

Present: Senators Ricketts [presiding], Risch, McCormick, Hagerty, Barrasso, Coons, Booker, Van Hollen, and Duckworth.

Also present: Senators Fetterman, Moody, Britt, and Graham.

Senator RICKETTS. All right. I call the committee to order. Welcome, everybody.

Welcome to all of our nominees and to all the Senators and all of our guests. I appreciate everybody being here today.

We are here to consider nominations of Dr. Anjani Sinha, nominated to be the U.S. Ambassador to Singapore; Mr. Jeffrey Bartos, nominee to be the representative of the United States at the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform; Ambassador Lynda Blanchard, nominee to be the U.S. Representative to the United Nation Agencies for Food and Agriculture; Ms. Kimberly Guilfoyle, nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Greece; and Ms. Jennifer—sorry, Locetta—did I get that right? Locetta, nominee to be the Alternate Representative of the United States for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations.

As we begin here today I remind everybody that we have ground rules here in this committee. We have important work to do, and we have limited time to do it. As a result, we do not tolerate demonstrations or disruptions to the committee's business.

Nobody in the audience is allowed to talk to any of our nominees or to any of the Senators. If you choose to interrupt our proceedings you will be removed and barred from attending these public hearings for 1 year—12 months.

I appreciate your understanding. I am looking forward to a productive hearing.

A number of my colleagues are here who would like to make introductions to our nominees and so we are going to start with that.

Mr. Bartos, you have got two Senators who want to nominate you, and I will start with Senator Fetterman.

Would you like to begin—kick us off here, please?

**STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN FETTERMAN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM PENNSYLVANIA**

Senator FETTERMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and hello. It is an honor be here today, and again, thank you, Chairman Ricketts, and thank you, Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Shaheen, and the distinguished colleagues of this committee including mine from Pennsylvania.

All right. I know that dude.

Well, today—I am here today, and I am proud to be here to support my good friend Jeff Bartos and his nomination to be Ambassador of the United States U.N. Management and Reform.

Jeff and I became friends, ironically, when we were both running together as Lieutenant Governor back in 2018. Of course, we are in different parties, but throughout that entire process through that election we became friends, and we have maintained that relationship ever since then.

Particularly, our relationship deepened immediately after the Tree of Life massacre, and we would speak over and over again how important it is to do something about the rampant anti-Semitism.

But again, of course, we have different political differences. We are in different parties and sometimes it is not popular to be friends and to support members of the opposite party.

But I am here, and I am proud to stand to attest to Jeff's character and his commitment to public service regardless of whatever the party is might be different than mine, using his business experience and has really been very helping people in need.

And now during the pandemic he created a very innovative program called the 30 day PA Day Fund which helped thousands of small businesses across Pennsylvania to stay open during the middle of the COVID pandemic.

I am absolutely confident that Jeff will bring the kinds of dedication and integrity to the United States, putting the interests of our nations at the forefront for every decision that he makes.

I am proud to support his nomination, and thank you for the opportunity to introduce my friend and speak to this committee.

Senator RICKETTS. Thank you, Senator Fetterman.

And with all of our Senators I know that many—we have got a lot of things going on, and so you are welcome to stay but I know you may have other hearings you have to get to.

So we are pleased that you were able to make this introduction.

Senator McCormick—

Senator MCCORMICK. Thank you.

Senator RICKETTS [continuing]. Who also would like to talk about—

**STATEMENT OF HON. DAVID MCCORMICK,
U.S. SENATOR FROM PENNSYLVANIA**

Senator MCCORMICK. Absolutely. It is great to follow in the footsteps of the senior Senator from Pennsylvania.

Jeff, you have your former opponents all introducing you today which is great.

I just want to congratulate all the nominees, and Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Shaheen, thanks for allowing me to speak.

I am specifically here to introduce a native son of Reading. We have got a lot of Reading native sons here in the audience with Senator Fetterman and Senator Barrasso.

Jeff joins us today with his wife Sheryl, one of his two daughters—two great daughters, Emily and Sarah, who he always talks about with great pride, and welcome to you all. I am sure you are very proud.

Jeff is here today as the nominee for the U.S. Representative to the United Nations for Management and Reform, and I have seen up close Jeff's dedication to Pennsylvania and to serving our great country.

And so, Jeff, thanks for accepting this challenge. You would bring years of great business experience, community leadership in our commonwealth, a successful real estate developer, president of Last Line Strategies, previously president and CEO of the Mark Group, and later division president of Toll Brothers in Horsham, Pennsylvania.

You have had a great career, and you have also been active across many organizations in Philadelphia including the Grand Partners Building Products Advisory Board, the Wexner Heritage Fellowship, the Kimmel Center of Performing Arts, and the Jewish Federation in Philadelphia.

Also, as Senator Fetterman talked about, you have really been a leader in Pennsylvania, crisscrossing the State as a candidate for public office, the creator of the 30 day Fund that raised millions to help small businesses hurt by COVID.

But you know, you have got a tough assignment at the United Nations, and when we put United Nations and reform in the same sentence that is a tough job.

But I know from personal experience—I know the Senator does, too—of your tenacity, your toughness, your desire to serve your community, and so we are very lucky to have that kind of leadership and grit to root out anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias at the United Nations, to demand transparency and accountability on behalf of the Trump administration, more important, the American people.

So I am pleased to join Senator Fetterman to support this nomination, and I urge all my colleagues on the committee to vote for someone who I know will do a great job on behalf of all Americans.

Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RICKETTS. Thank you, Senator McCormick.

And now we will move on to Senator Moody for Ms. Locetta.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ASHLEY MOODY,
U.S. SENATOR FROM FLORIDA**

Senator MOODY. Thank you, Chairman Ricketts.

Good morning. It is my honor to be here today to introduce President Trump's nominee to be the alternate representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs as well as the alternate representative of the United States of America to the sessions of the General Assembly in the United Nations, my fellow Floridian Jennifer Locetta.

It is no surprise this is just another great Floridian volunteering her time and coming up to DC to serve her country. She is from Sarasota, Florida, and it is not the first time she is going to be serving on our country's behalf.

During President Trump's first term Ms. Locetta served our country in various roles and helped advance President Trump's vision for a secure and prosperous America, and I know she will continue to do so when confirmed for these positions.

Whether it was from her time as special assistant to the President and associate director of presidential personnel at the White House to various roles she had in Florida, she worked hard on behalf of Floridians and Americans alike and gained extensive experience in personnel and management as well as skills focused on enhancing security protocols.

I can attest that, like many of my colleagues, this country is in need of someone to take up the "America First" mantle in its policy approach in all aspects of our foreign policy, from diplomatic negotiations to the United Nations and many of the roles in which she will be confirmed.

After 4 long years of America last policies we now need this more than ever, and I am thrilled that many great Floridians have volunteered to serve and have been nominated by this Administration to carry out President Trump's vision for our country.

I have seen just how critical the right leadership is to solving the most complex global issues, from Iran and its proxies, attacks on Israel and U.S. regional interest to attempts by the People's Republic of China to infiltrate our universities and steal U.S. military technology.

Our foreign policy is only as strong as the leadership we have in positions to respond to these events. President Trump has shown that strong leadership, demonstrated time and time again in dealing with malign actors globally that it is necessary to pursuing a safer and more secure world.

With "America First" policy the world is safer, and peace should always be the goal in our foreign policy. Far too long the United Nations and other international organizations have become the pawn of our adversaries, and that is why it is imperative that the Senate continues to do its duty to confirm President Trump's nominees and ensure that the United States' interests are adequately represented in the forms where it matters most.

Ms. Locetta is the right person for this job at the right time. I trust that, should she be confirmed, she will be a fierce advocate for America's priorities at the United Nations, stand up for Israel, and ensure strong representation and communication of President Trump's peace through strength vision.

She will be an excellent representative of this great nation, and it is my honor to introduce to my colleagues and America Jennifer Locetta.

Senator RICKETTS. Great. Thank you very much, Senator Moody. I appreciate you being here. Thank you very much for the introduction.

Next, we will move on to Ambassador Blanchard and I believe, Senator Britt, you would like to say a few words to introduce the Ambassador.

**STATEMENT OF HON. KATIE BOYD BRITT,
U.S. SENATOR FROM ALABAMA**

Senator BRITT. Absolutely, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you. Chair Ricketts, Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, members of this distinguished committee, and Senator Graham, who joins me right here.

Happy birthday, sir.

Senator RICKETTS. I will note it is Senator Graham's 70th birthday, so congratulations, Senator.

[Applause.]

Senator GRAHAM. If you are not 70 turn back. It is not good.

[Laughter.]

Senator BRITT. Mr. Chairman, it is an honor to join you all today to introduce my dear friend Ambassador Lynda Blanchard. She is President Trump's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture.

She is the former U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia and an incredible businesswoman, philanthropist, and humanitarian. Linda is a native of Alabama's capital city Montgomery, where I reside. She has devoted her life to elevating our State and supporting communities not just in this nation but across the globe.

She has a record of bringing sustainable change through education, health, anti-hunger initiatives, you name it. She co-founded the 100x Development Foundation based in Montgomery that now serves over a dozen countries to help the most vulnerable, including children and families in poverty.

It is her goal for the unseen to be seen, to be elevated, and give an opportunity for success. She has served on numerous boards of local organizations like AGAPE of Central Alabama, a Christian foster care and adoption agency.

She is also the founder and former senior advisor of real estate firm B&M Management Company, which speaks to her business acumen, and she currently serves as vice president of business affairs of Ascent Residential where she oversees 25 properties across nine States.

This nomination also marks a return to diplomatic service for Lynda. In June 2018 President Trump nominated her as U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia where she diligently served our nation for over a year and a half.

In fact, she helped secure a joint declaration of 5G technology and a memorandum of understanding concerning strategic nuclear cooperation between both countries.

When I was president of the Business Council of Alabama I had the opportunity to travel to Slovenia and see her firsthand. She is a force of nature.

We know the challenges we have in front of us across the globe, and there is no one more prepared to meet those than her. Lynda has a proven record of international experience and leadership, and she is ready to translate that longtime service in food, agriculture, and hunger issues to excel in this position.

I have absolute confidence in her ability to strengthen international efforts to address food security and advance agriculture development and U.S. led initiatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on her behalf. I look forward to seeing her strong leadership in action as the next U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture.

Senator RICKETTS. Great. Thank you very much, Senator Britt.

I know that Senator Tuberville also wants to say some words on your behalf and I believe he is on his way. But in the meantime, we are going to go to Senator Graham to talk about Dr. Sinha, who is, obviously, up for Singapore.

Senator Graham.

**STATEMENT OF HON. LINDSEY GRAHAM,
U.S. SENATOR FROM SOUTH CAROLINA**

Senator GRAHAM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Senator Coons, and to the committee thanks for having me and appreciate the birthday wishes. I cannot believe I am 70.

So anyway, that is not your problem. That is mine.

So Dr. Sinha I have known for years. He has been a friend of President Trump for over a decade, and he has quite a life.

He was born in India. He lost his father in a tragic car accident at the age of 13, and he assumed financial responsibility for his six siblings and widowed mother.

He went on to graduate medical school in India at age 22. He then moved to India's capital city of Delhi in 1972 to begin graduate studies and medical career, and eventually immigrated to the United States in 1977 settling in New York.

Once in the United States he started a orthopedic practice for over 40 years specializing in orthopedic and sports medicine. He sold that practice. He started another practice and had eight locations throughout New York.

Very industrious, talented surgeon and businessman. He has deep ties to the Indo-Pacific region. He is positioned to relate to key stakeholders in the region. Singapore has a very vibrant medical community, a lot of medical tourism, biotech, medical innovation. All of this is right up his alley.

I think he will be a great spokesperson for our country in Singapore. He knows the region, and he knows the issues, and I am very honored to introduce him. His wife of 48 years, Dr. Sinha, is a retired anesthesiologist.

She was on the NYU faculty, and they have a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren, and they have truly lived the American dream, and this is a way for him to give back to his country, and I heartily recommend his nomination to be Ambassador to Singapore.

Thank you.

Senator RICKETTS. Great. Thank you very much, Senator Graham.

Ambassador Blanchard, I understand that Senator Tuberville did get pulled away to something else, and Ms. Guilfoyle, Senator Hagerty is going to say some remarks about you when he has his time for questions. So do not feel left out. Senator Hagerty will be here.

Now what we will do before we turn to our panelists for their introductory statements we will follow that with a round of 5 minute questions.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. PETE RICKETTS,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEBRASKA**

Senator RICKETTS. I will take the opportunity to thank all of our nominees first, however, for your willingness to serve our great country on the world stage and congratulate all of you on this opportunity.

Thank you also to your families because they serve alongside with you.

Ambassador Blanchard, you know that from personal experience.

It has been the opportunity I have had as a Governor to be able to do trade missions and see our staff overseas and they do a fantastic job, but they do spend time away from their friends and families and you will all be doing that to greater or lesser degrees as well.

So thank you for your families' sacrifices as you are confirmed should you all be confirmed to these posts.

These are not easy jobs. They are critical to ensuring that the United States can advance the interests and security of the American people around the globe. It is vital for our foreign policy that we have confirmed ambassadors in positions of importance.

This is something I have heard consistently as I visit with partners and allies around the world, and this is a point that has been made by members of both parties repeatedly throughout my time on this committee, that we need to make sure that we get our nominees confirmed and in their positions in these important roles.

Under Chairman Risch's leadership I am proud that this committee has prioritized this important responsibility of advancing President Trump's nominees. So far 43 nominees have had hearings and have been voted on. This is a record pace, and everyone should be proud of that.

Disappointingly, though, many of these nominees are not yet confirmed. This hurts our ability to advance our interests. At a time when we are competing for influence with adversaries like Communist China we cannot afford to let partisanship get in the way of what is best for our country.

Thank you all again to the nominees for your willingness to serve, and I look forward to hearing your testimony and answering this committee's questions.

So now we will go into the panelists' opening statements, and Dr. Sinha, we will go ahead and start with you. Would you like to begin?

**STATEMENT OF DR. ANJANI SINHA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AM-
BASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF
SINGAPORE**

Dr. SINHA. Thank you, Senator Graham, although he left, but I just wanted to thank him.

Chairman Ricketts and esteemed committee members, I am humbled to stand before you today. I extend my deep gratitude to President Trump for his nomination and to Secretary Rubio for his support. With your concurrence and approval I look forward to serving the United States to my fullest capacity.

I would also like to thank my wife for 48 years, Kiki, and my son Sumeet, who are here with me today, and a special thanks to my daughter Pooja, who has supported me closely through this process. She is watching us live from Norway with our grandkids.

Kiki and I arrived in Brooklyn as a newly married couple from India. The United States has always recognized and invested in talent and growth from all corners of the world. Kiki and I were able to work hard and build successful medical careers.

Most importantly, we raised a beautiful family together, and we have served and supported our communities on Long Island, in Florida, and across the Northeast.

The United States is the only country on this planet where such amazing journey and achievements could be possible. We have lived the American dream, and for this I feel immense gratitude to this nation and to our fellow Americans.

United States is an Indo-Pacific nation, and our connection to and interest in the region are deep. I myself was born in India and have a strong understanding and respect for the region's culture, people, and the values.

Singapore is our key strategic partner and a friend in the Indo-Pacific. Close cooperation with Singapore, along with our other allies and partners in this region, is more critical today than ever before.

If confirmed, my duty will be to advance and implement the policies of the United States and to promote U.S. interest. In Singapore I look to expand and deepen our defense and security cooperation, economic and trade relationship, people to people ties.

I see tremendous opportunities for the United States with Singapore, and I will call on the incredible talent and knowledge of our State Department and interagency professionals.

There are so many potential areas for growth in this vital relationship, which has already seen significant advancement in defense and security cooperation, and made great strides in collaborating on cutting edge technologies.

Finally, I will rely on my own skills as a lifelong bridge builder and advocate making important connections with people from all walks of life.

As a medical professional, the well being of my patients, their families, and my employees for over four decades, I do not take lightly my obligation to similarly protect American citizens in Singapore including our mission personnel.

Distinguished Senators, it would be my greatest honor to serve our United States of America, the country and people who have given me and my family so much.

I pledge to fulfill my duties with integrity and to work hard to deepen our important relationship with Singapore.

Thank you, and I welcome your questions.

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS**Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Additional Nominee Questions**

1. Do you agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from your office available to the Committee when invited?
Answer: Yes
2. Do you commit to keeping this Committee fully informed about the activities under your purview in a timely manner?
Answer: Yes
3. Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, not just providing notification after the fact?
Answer: Yes
4. Do you commit to responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff as soon as practicable?
Answer: Yes
5. Do you agree to ensuring that Chiefs of Mission fully support CODELs and STAFFDELs, with exceptions only for simultaneous or overlapping visits by the President or First Lady of the United States, the Vice President, or the Secretaries of State or Defense?
Answer: Yes

Printed Name: ANJANI SINHA

Date: _____

[The prepared statement of Dr. Sinha follows:]

Prepared Statement of Anjani Sinha

Thank you, Senator Graham, for your kind introduction. Your service to our country is historic and it's an honor to try to follow your example. I am fortunate to call on you for your advice and support.

Chairman Hagerty and esteemed Committee Members—I am humbled to stand before you today. I extend my deep gratitude to President Trump for his nomination, and to Secretary Rubio for his support. With your concurrence and approval, I look forward to serving the United States to my fullest capacity.

I would also like to thank my dear wife of 48 years, Kiki, and my son, Sumeet, who are here with me today. And a special thanks to my daughter, Pooja, who has supported me closely through this process—she is watching us live from Norway, with our grandchildren. Kiki and I arrived in Brooklyn as newly married doctors from India. The United States has always recognized and invested in talent and growth, from all corners of this world. Kiki and I were able to work hard and honestly in this country and build successful medical careers. Most importantly, we raised a beautiful family together, and we have served and supported our communities on Long Island, in Florida, and across the Northeast. The United States is the only country on this planet where our incredible journey and achievements could be possible. We have lived the American dream, and for this I feel immense gratitude to this nation and our fellow Americans.

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There are so many potential areas for growth in this vital relationship, which has already seen significant advancements in defense and security cooperation, and made great strides in collaborating on cutting-edge technologies.

Finally, I will rely on my own skills as a lifelong bridge-builder and advocate, making important connections with people from all walks of life. As a medical professional who has safeguarded the well-being of my patients, their families, and my employees for over four decades, I do not take lightly my obligation to similarly protect Americans citizens in Singapore, including our mission personnel.

Distinguished Senators, it would be my greatest honor to serve our United States of America—the country and people who have given me and my family so much. I pledge to fulfill my duties with integrity, and to work hard to deepen our very important relationship with Singapore and its people.

Thank you, and I welcome your questions.

Senator RICKETTS. Great. Thank you, Dr. Sinha, and I might notice you got that all done in 4 minutes. You did not take the whole 5 minutes, so thank you very much. I forgot—got to mention that, but you did a great job.

Dr. SINHA. Thank you.

Senator RICKETTS. So—what?

Senator RISCH. A star by his name.

Senator RICKETTS. A star by his name, exactly right.

So I would ask all of our panelists to kind of keep it to 5 minutes, or you could follow Dr. Sinha's example and just keep it to 4 minutes.

Mr. Bartos, you are up next.

**STATEMENT OF JEFFREY BARTOS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND RE-
FORM, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, AND TO SERVE
CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSA-
TION AS AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

Mr. BARTOS. I first want to thank my home State Senators and my good friends, Senator Fetterman and Senator McCormick. Thank you for your friendship and support. It means the world to me.

Thank you, Chairman Ricketts and distinguished members of this committee. I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as the representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform.

Thank you to President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their confidence and for this opportunity to serve the American people.

Growing up in Reading, Pennsylvania—and Senator McCormick pointed out the three of us from Reading here this morning—growing up in Reading, Pennsylvania, I dreamed of one day serving our country.

Sheryl, my wife of almost 28 years, grew up in Allentown, Pennsylvania. We met in Charlottesville, Virginia, and raised our two daughters, Emily and Sarah, in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Sheryl, Emily, and Sarah, I would not be here today without you, and I am grateful for your love and support and your patience because, as the Senators know, the political world is not so easy on the family.

I am thinking today, as I do every day, of my mother, Adrienne, who we lost to cancer in 2018. To my brother Todd, who is also here with us today, and to my father David and to Sheryl's parents, Lew and Roberta, who are watching online, thank you for your love and support.

After World War II the United States, along with the other 51 founding members of the United Nations, signed the U.N. Charter with the commitment to prevent future wars and to promote international peace and security.

Unfortunately, over the past 80 years the U.N. has strayed from its foundational goals and lost sight of the principles it was established to defend.

From U.N. bodies with overlapping mandates to the deep rot of its anti-Israel bias, the U.N. needs to get back to basics and recommit to the values enshrined in its charter.

If confirmed, I will work to implement President Trump's "America First" foreign policy at the U.N. and to return the U.N. to its original mandate of promoting international peace and security with the goal as set forth in its charter to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

American taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability for the funding we provide to the U.N. and a commitment that their money is not funding waste, fraud, or abuse.

American taxpayer dollars going to the U.N. should advance our national interest and contribute to making our country safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

If confirmed, I will work to ensure stringent accountability, transparency, and reform at the U.N. including eliminating redundancy, unnecessary activities, and creeping mandates.

I will focus on streamlining the U.N. budget, reducing staff footprint, and pushing for more equitable burden sharing among member states.

As the largest financial contributor to U.N. peacekeeping the United States must demand the most efficient use of U.S. taxpayer dollars in peacekeeping operations.

If confirmed, I will push for long term structural financial efficiency in peacekeeping missions and increased burden sharing from nations that share our priorities for U.N. reform.

I will work with my colleagues to review the programmatic effectiveness of individual peacekeeping missions and ensure these mission mandates are realistic and achievable with clear exit strategies for each mission.

We must also ensure that the U.N. upholds its zero tolerance policy for sexual exploitation and abuse and uses all tools available to push for accountability.

Our standard should be very simple. One case of abuse is one too many. U.S. representation in U.N. leadership and staffing is not commensurate with our financial contributions.

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that more Americans are working at the U.N. American citizens bring our values to their work in the U.N. system and are one of our best defenses against nations that seek to exploit and manipulate the U.N. for their own interests, especially China.

If confirmed, I will demand the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and efficiency in U.N. hiring and invest in American citizen talent pipelines.

I am eager to support the Trump administration's strategy to place more American citizens in appointed and elected positions at the United Nations, something, Mr. Chairman, I know you and your colleagues would like to see as well.

As the U.N. turns 80 this year the United States is not alone in recognizing the need for reform. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with other member states in the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly to pursue these much needed reforms.

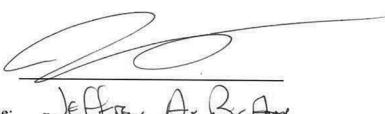
It would be the honor of a lifetime to represent our nation at the U.N. in New York and to pursue the reforms needed to advance the United States interests and to promote international peace and security.

Thank you again to you and your staff for all the time and hard work that go into this process. I am grateful for your advice and guidance, and I look forward to your questions.

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Additional Nominee Questions**

1. Do you agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from your office available to the Committee when invited?
Answer: Yes
2. Do you commit to keeping this Committee fully informed about the activities under your purview in a timely manner?
Answer: Yes
3. Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, not just providing notification after the fact?
Answer: Yes
4. Do you commit to responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff as soon as practicable?
Answer: Yes
5. Do you agree to ensuring that Chiefs of Mission fully support CODELs and STAFFDELS, with exceptions only for simultaneous or overlapping visits by the President or First Lady of the United States, the Vice President, or the Secretaries of State or Defense?
Answer: Yes



Printed Name: Jeffrey A. BcAuley
Date: 7/9/2025

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bartos follows:]

Prepared Statement of Jeffrey Bartos

Thank you, Chairman Hagerty and distinguished Members of the Committee. I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform. Thank you to President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their confidence and for this opportunity to serve the American people.

Growing up in Reading, Pennsylvania, I dreamed of one day serving our country. Sheryl, my wife of almost 28 years, grew up in Allentown, Pennsylvania. We met in Charlottesville, VA, and raised our two daughters, Emily and Sarah, in the Philadelphia suburbs. Sheryl, Emily, and Sarah—I would not be here today without you, and I am grateful for your love and support (and patience). I am thinking today, as I do every day, of my mother Adrienne, who we lost to cancer in 2018. To my brother Todd (who is here with us), and to my father David and to Sheryl's parents, Lew and Roberta, who are watching online, thank you for your love and support.

After World War II, the United States—along with the other 51 founding members of the United Nations, signed the U.N. Charter with the commitment to prevent future wars and to promote international peace and security. Unfortunately, over the past 80 years, the U.N. has strayed from its foundational goals and lost sight of the principles it was established to defend. From U.N. bodies with overlapping mandates to the deep rot of its anti-Israel bias—the U.N. needs to get back to basics and recommit to the values enshrined in its charter.

If confirmed, I will work to implement President Trump's America First foreign policy at the U.N. and to return the U.N. to its original mandate of promoting international peace and security with the goal, as set forth in the preamble of the U.N. Charter, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war."

American taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability for the funding we provide to the U.N. and a commitment that their money is not funding waste, fraud, or abuse. American taxpayer dollars going to the U.N. should advance our national interest and contribute to making our country safer, stronger, and more prosperous. If confirmed, I will work to ensure stringent accountability, transparency, and reform at the United Nations, including eliminating redundancy, unnecessary activities, and creeping mandates. I will focus on streamlining the U.N. budget, reducing staff footprint, and pushing for more equitable burden sharing among Member States.

As the largest financial contributor to U.N. peacekeeping, the United States must demand the most efficient use of U.S. taxpayer dollars in peacekeeping operations. If confirmed, I will push for long-term structural financial efficiency in peacekeeping missions and increased burden sharing from nations that share our priorities for U.N. reform. I will work with my colleagues to review the programmatic effectiveness of individual peacekeeping missions and ensure these mission mandates are realistic and achievable, with clear exit strategies for each mission. We must also ensure that the U.N. upholds its zero-tolerance policy for sexual exploitation or abuse, and uses all tools available to push for accountability. Our standard should be simple: one case of abuse is one too many.

U.S. representation in U.N. leadership and staffing is not commensurate with our financial contributions. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that more Americans are working at the U.N. American citizens bring our values to their work in the U.N. system and are one of our best defenses against nations that seek to exploit and manipulate the U.N. for their own interests, especially China. If confirmed, I will demand the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and efficiency in U.N. hiring and invest in American citizen talent pipelines. I am eager to support the Trump Administration's strategy to place more American citizens in appointed and elected positions at the U.N.—something, Mr. Chairman, I know you and your colleagues would like to see as well.

As the U.N. turns 80 this year, the United States is not alone in recognizing the need for reform. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with other Member States in the Fifth Committee and the U.N. General Assembly to pursue these much-needed reforms.

It would be the honor of a lifetime to represent the United States at the U.N. in New York and to pursue the reforms needed to advance U.S. interests and to promote international peace and security.

Thank you again to you and your staff for all the time that you devote to this process. I am grateful for your advice and guidance, and I look forward to your questions.

Senator RICKETTS. Great. Thank you, Mr. Bartos.

Our esteemed Chairman, who is letting me stand in for him today at the hearing, has requested a moment of personal privilege.

So, please, Chairman Risch.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES E. RISCH,
U.S. SENATOR FROM IDAHO**

Senator RISCH. Thank you very much.

First of all, let me say thank you for standing in and other members of the committee who have. As has been noted, we are almost 50 people now we have had hearings on, and it is really difficult for the Chair to take these on all alone.

So if we can have the assistance of the other members of the committee to hold subcommittee hearings that works really, really well.

I am not telling anything that this panel does not know, and that is that these appointments are complicated. They take a long time, and the preparation on this side is just as lengthy as it is on your side.

And I would like to recognize publicly and thank Sergio Gor from the White House who handles personnel matters. He is with us for the first time today, and with him is his assistant Morgan DeWitt from our staff. Kelsey Kelleher—is Kelsey here?

VOICE. She is in the back.

Senator RISCH. She is in the back.

But anyway, all of us work together to make these things happen. We met even before we started these hearings.

It has worked really, really well the system that we put in place. We even had Kelsey embedded a bit at the White House as we moved this—and the State Department as we moved this forward.

But it has been really good, as you noted, that we are really on record pace for getting people through this committee.

The floor is struggling a little bit but still at a record pace, and that is a result of the work of all these people that have helped do this all together. So, anyway, I want to thank everybody, and thank all those who were involved in this.

Senator Shaheen has been very helpful. She and I were both Governors and are both committed to the principle that the chief executive cannot do the job without having the team in place.

And speaking of the chief executive, I think, Sergio, you can either confirm or deny but we almost have him to the point where he believes we are on a record pace.

[Laughter.]

Senator RISCH. So I am getting fewer calls, which has got to be something good.

So with that, I should point out too we have another special guest, the—President Trump's grandson, Donald J. III is here with us today. We do not get many of the First Family here so we are certainly welcome—welcome you to the hearing.

With that, I will yield back, and thank you, Senator Ricketts.

Senator RICKETTS. Great. Thank you, Chairman Risch.

And with that, Ms. Guilfoyle, I said you were not going to be left out. Senator Hagerty is here, and so Senator Hagerty would like to do his introduction for you.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BILL HAGERTY,
U.S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE**

Senator HAGERTY. Well, I want to thank the Chair, and thank you for standing in for me today, Mr. Chairman, as well to attend to a family health issue.

But it is a great privilege to be here with all of you, and I would like to congratulate all of you, too. The roles that you are about to take on are incredibly important.

Having done a role similar to what several of you are doing, I have got a great respect for not only you but your families and to all the families that are here. The role that you will play is absolutely critical in the success of your spouse, your loved one. So thank you.

But it is a special treat and privilege to introduce a good friend of mine today, and that is Kimberly Guilfoyle. She is President Trump's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to Greece.

She is a deeply experienced attorney, a nationally respected commentator on politics and public policy, and she is a great political strategist.

Throughout her career Kimberly has excelled in both the private sector and in her public service roles. Indeed, her distinguished background and longstanding commitment to public engagement make her an absolutely excellent candidate to be the United States Ambassador to Greece.

Ms. Guilfoyle worked as a broadcaster at Fox News where she co-hosted "The Five" and "Outnumbered" and previously appeared as a legal analyst on CNN, ABC, and Court TV.

Earlier in her career, Kimberly served as a prosecutor in the San Francisco District Attorney's office and as deputy district attorney in Los Angeles where she generated national recognition for her legal acumen.

Her academic and civic credentials further support her nomination, having graduated magna cum laude from University of California Davis, and earned a JD from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

She is also the recipient of multiple awards recognizing her legal work, her public service, and her advocacy including the Heritage of Hope Award from the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and the Special Civil Rights Award from the city of New York.

Most recently, in January she was awarded what is known as the Emblematic Icon by the Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church of America commemorating Kimberly's spiritual and cultural bonds with Greece and the United States.

Thank you for your contributions to that relationship, Kimberly.

Her strong expertise and experience as well as her deep ties to the Greek-American community make her extremely well qualified to represent the United States in Greece.

And on a very personal note, I want to acknowledge that as I moved from my prior post as U.S. Ambassador to Japan to the U.S. Senate, Kimberly was there for me from the very beginning.

She came and joined me in my small hometown in Tennessee to kick off my campaign, and Kimberly, you have been a friend from the very start and helped me open this new chapter in my life, and

I could not be more honored to be here to congratulate you and help you open this important new chapter in your life.

And I encourage all of my colleagues to support her nomination. Thank you.

Senator RICKETTS. Thank you, Senator Hagerty.

And now, Ambassador Blanchard, we will go to your opening remarks.

STATEMENT OF HON. LYNDA BLANCHARD, OF ALABAMA, TO BE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR

Ambassador BLANCHARD. Chairman Risch, Chair Ricketts, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and a special thank you, of course, to Senator Katie Britt from the great State of Alabama.

I have the opportunity and have been honored to have been nominated by President Trump to serve as the U.S. Representative to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome.

I am joined here today by my family: my husband, John, son, Benjamin, my daughters and several—Haley, Karen, Jennifer, Gracie, and Lucero, and my twin sister—whose unwavering love and support have made this moment possible. I would not be here without them.

Our country has afforded me many opportunities for which I am very grateful. I married at 19, became a mom to a 3 year old son shortly thereafter, and earned my degree in my 30s when we were finally able to afford it.

I am a proud adoptive parent of children from all over the world, my mini U.N. as we are affectionately called, as you can see behind me.

I have served in a variety of professional roles, at times just to make ends meet. This includes serving as an orthopedic assistant, business executive, and humanitarian. I have partnered with international business leaders and foreign dignitaries on projects to improve education, decrease poverty, and instill dignity and hope.

Our nonprofit organization has provided care to thousands of children across the globe. I bring to this role a combination of humanitarian passion, business acumen, and large scale management experience.

I was honored to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia during President Trump's first term where I was able to advance critical Administration priorities, from 5G technology deployment and U.S. energy strategy to negotiating a multibillion dollar memorandum of understanding for a new nuclear partnership between the United States and Slovenia.

I was privileged to also be serving as Ambassador to Slovenia when the public perception of the U.S. actually turned notably more positive. Today, the need for change and reform within the United Nations is more urgent than ever.

Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Rubio, the United States is reevaluating its relationship with international organizations and ensuring our involvement advances American interests.

The United States has the opportunity to shape U.N. Food and Agriculture Agencies to overcome the challenges of our time.

I understand the importance of the U.S. mission to U.N. agencies in Rome. Food security is a life or death issue for hundreds of millions of people around the world.

Moreover, these agencies directly affect U.S. farmers and producers as billions of dollars of American agriculture exports move through their programs.

However, over the years the United Nations and its associated agencies have continued to grow and expand their mandate beyond original intentions.

With this growth a proliferation of bloated bureaucracies has taken hold, distracting the U.N. from its core principles.

President Trump and Secretary Rubio recognize this issue and have asked the State Department to reexamine our engagement with U.N. organizations.

If confirmed, I will bring everything I have to ensure that the U.N. organizations the United States chooses to engage with are efficient and effective stewards of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

As Secretary Rubio has also said, every dollar we spend, every program we fund, and every policy we pursue must be justified with the answer to three simple questions: does it make America safer, does it make America stronger, and does it make America more prosperous.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am grateful for this nomination, and if confirmed, I will work closely with you and your staff to advance an “America First” foreign policy and ensure that the United States remains a principled, effective leader on the world stage, especially in the fight against global hunger.

I look forward to your questions, sir.

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Additional Nominee Questions**

1. Do you agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from your office available to the Committee when invited?
Answer: Yes
2. Do you commit to keeping this Committee fully informed about the activities under your purview in a timely manner?
Answer: Yes
3. Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, not just providing notification after the fact?
Answer: Yes
4. Do you commit to responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff as soon as practicable?
Answer: Yes
5. Do you agree to ensuring that Chiefs of Mission fully support CODELs and STAFFDELS, with exceptions only for simultaneous or overlapping visits by the President or First Lady of the United States, the Vice President, or the Secretaries of State or Defense?
Answer: Yes

Lynda Blanchard
Printed Name: Lynda Blanchard
Date: July 9, 2025

[The prepared statement of Ms. Blanchard follows:]

Prepared Statement of Lynda Blanchard

Chairman Hagerty and distinguished Members of the Committee: thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am honored to have been nominated by President Trump to serve as the U.S. Representative to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Agencies in Rome.

I am joined today by my family, whose unwavering love and support have made this moment possible. I would not be here without them.

Our country has afforded me many opportunities, for which I am ever grateful. I married at 19, became a mom to a 3-year-old son shortly thereafter, and earned my degree in my 30's when we were finally able to afford it. I am a proud adoptive parent of children from all over the world—my “mini-UN,” as we are affectionately called. I have served in a variety of professional roles, at times just to make ends meet. This includes serving as an orthopedic assistant, business executive and humanitarian. I have partnered with international business leaders and foreign dignitaries on projects to improve education, decrease poverty, and instill dignity and hope. Our non-profit organization has provided care to thousands of children across the globe.

I bring to this role a combination of humanitarian passion, business acumen and large-scale management experience. I was honored to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia during President Trump's first term, where I advanced critical administration priorities—from 5G technology deployment and U.S. energy strategy to negotiating a multi-billion-dollar memorandum of understanding for a new nuclear partnership between the United States and Slovenia. I was privileged to have also been serving as Ambassador to Slovenia when public perception of the U.S. turned notably more positive.

Today, the need for change and reform within the United Nations is more urgent than ever. Under the leadership of President Trump and Secretary Rubio, the United States is reevaluating its relationship with international organizations and ensuring our involvement advances American interests. The United States has the opportunity to shape the UN's food and agricultural agencies to overcome the challenges of our time.

I understand the importance of the U.S. Mission to U.N. Agencies in Rome: food security is a life-or-death issue for hundreds of millions of people around the world. Moreover, these agencies directly affect U.S. farmers and producers, as billions of dollars of American agricultural exports move through their programs.

However, over the years, the United Nations and its associated agencies have continued to grow and expand their mandate beyond original intentions. With this growth, a proliferation of bloated bureaucracies has taken hold, distracting the U.N. from its core principles. President Trump and Secretary Rubio recognized this issue and have asked the State Department to reexamine our engagement with U.N. organizations.

If confirmed, I will bring everything I have to ensure that the U.N. organizations the United States chooses to engage with are efficient and effective stewards of U.S. taxpayer dollars. As Secretary Rubio has also said—“Every dollar we spend, every program we fund, and every policy we pursue must be justified with the answer to three simple questions: Does it make America safer? Does it make America stronger? Does it make America more prosperous?”

Chairman Hagerty and Members of the Committee: I am grateful for this nomination and, if confirmed, I will work closely with you and your staff to advance an America First-foreign policy and ensure that the United States remains a principled, effective leader on the world stage—especially in the fight against global hunger.

I look forward to your questions.

Senator RICKETTS. Great. Thank you very much, Ambassador.

Ms. Guilfoyle, go to your opening statement, please.

**STATEMENT OF KIMBERLY GUILFOYLE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO GREECE**

Ms. GUILFOYLE. Thank you.

I first off want to start and say thank you to my dear friend of many years, Senator Hagerty, for your kind introduction, for your stewardship and service to this country in multiple roles that you

have done, and you are someone I greatly look up to, admire, and hope to follow in the footsteps of your great service to this country.

And thank you to the esteemed members of this committee. Thank you for standing in, Subcommittee Chairman Mr. Ricketts, Chairman Risch, Senator McCormick, another great friend, and Senator Coons who showed up here earlier today.

It is with a great and profound sense of honor and deep humility that I appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to serve as the United States Ambassador to Greece.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to the President for his faith in my abilities and to Secretary Rubio, and to Sergio Gor here present today, the head of PPO, and his amazing team for their collective trust and confidence placed in me.

I also thank this committee for the opportunity to be here and for your careful consideration of my nomination.

I would like to thank my closest family and friends for their support, their encouragement, throughout this process. I would like to offer special thanks and love to my son Ronan, my brother Tony Guilfoyle, and to Donnie Trump for their steadfast support.

I also would like to thank my parents, who would be so incredibly proud to see me here today. My mother Mercedes was a special education teacher from Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.

My father, an immigrant from Ireland, came to this nation in pursuit of the American dream, and now I consider it my duty to carry on the mission and the values that they instilled in me.

To be nominated to represent the United States is truly a great privilege, and to be considered for a post in Greece, the very birthplace of democracy, is a uniquely humbling honor.

The ideals of liberty, self-governance, and the rule of law that were born in ancient Athens have echoed through the centuries, inspiring generations of thinkers and leaders including our own nation's founders.

This profound legacy, which has greatly influenced the world and the formation of our own republic, resonates with my own lifelong dedication to public service and the unwavering pursuit of a more just and prosperous world through strong international partnerships.

My career path has been defined by a steadfast commitment to advocacy and public engagement. As a prosecutor in the demanding environments of both San Francisco and Los Angeles, I was entrusted to be a voice for those who could not speak for themselves and to uphold the foundational principles of our legal system.

This experience honed the skills of careful negotiation, clear eyed analysis, and the pursuit of truth, qualities I believe are indispensable to effective diplomacy.

Subsequently, my decades in the media as a legal analyst and television host provided me with a platform to elevate critical issues, spotlight injustice, and champion truth on a wide range of priorities and for audiences across the globe.

These endeavors, coupled with my active engagement in public advocacy and the political arena including during my service as First Lady of San Francisco, have provided me with a keen and timely understanding of international relations and an unshakable

belief in the power of robust alliances to advance our shared interests and values.

If confirmed, I pledge to bring the full measure of this experience to bear in Athens. I am prepared to be a tireless advocate for American interests, a steadfast partner for our Greek allies, and a proud and loyal representative of the President and the American people.

Over the past several decades, Greece has evolved to be a pillar of stability in a complex region, and its commitment to our shared security within the NATO alliance matters more than ever.

Consistently ranking among the top spending allies, Greece is projected to continue dedicating 3 percent of its GDP to defense in 2025 and is on a trajectory to reach 5 percent, in line with the alliance's commitment at The Hague.

This is not merely a matter of statistics. It is a tangible investment in our collective security. Furthermore, a substantial portion of this expenditure has been directed toward the acquisition of cutting edge U.S. defense technology including the formidable F-35 fighter jets, advanced Apache and Black Hawk helicopters, and modern naval vessels.

Additionally, the proposed joint project to co-produce Constellation class naval frigates demonstrates Greece's long term commitment to our strategic defense partnership. These modernization efforts enhance Greece's significant military capabilities, strengthen the eastern flank of our NATO alliance, and create valuable opportunities for American industry.

If confirmed, I will make it a top priority to further accelerate Greece's defense modernization by fostering even greater cooperation and synergy between our defense sectors.

The United States and Greece have made tremendous progress on energy cooperation. Greece's Revithoussa LNG terminal and the construction of the Alexandroupoli floating storage regasification unit is allowing the U.S. to export more gas to Europe.

While U.S. natural gas now accounts for 20 percent of gas in Greece, up from 2 percent 5 years ago, there are huge opportunities to sell more U.S. energy to Greece and its neighbors.

If confirmed, I will work with the so called vertical corridor between Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, and Central Europe so that Greece can become a hub of U.S. gas for the region.

I will also encourage Greece's progress on constructing electricity interconnectors and its neighbors including Cyprus, Israel and Egypt, which contribute to regional energy diversification and security.

Economic opportunity remains a central pillar of the robust U.S.-Greece relationship. If confirmed, I will serve as a proactive and strategic partner in advancing U.S. trade and investment interests, building on successful efforts to expand opportunities for American firms across key sectors including defense, energy, shipping, infrastructure, technology, AI, pharmaceuticals, hospitality, and agriculture.

I will also actively pursue pathways to encourage and facilitate Greek investment in the United States, fostering a more balanced, resilient, and mutually beneficial economic partnership.

Ultimately, the enduring strength of the U.S.-Greece relationship is built upon the solid bedrock of our people to people ties.

The vibrant Greek-American and Greek Orthodox community has made immeasurable contributions to the fabric of our Nation, and the bonds of culture, family, and shared heritage between our countries run deep.

I am also deeply committed to championing religious freedom, an essential pillar of all democratic societies and a core value we share with our Greek allies.

If confirmed, I look forward to engaging with and supporting the vital work of Greek cultural, educational institutions, nongovernmental organizations, municipalities, and individual citizens.

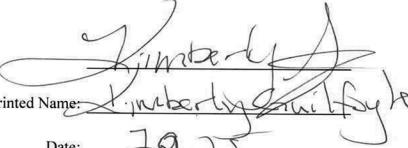
I am committed to working alongside the diaspora to further strengthen these essential human connections that bind our nations in a spirit of friendship and mutual respect.

Thank you once again for the honor of appearing before you today.

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee
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Answer: Yes
4. Do you commit to responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff as soon as practicable?
Answer: Yes
5. Do you agree to ensuring that Chiefs of Mission fully support CODELs and STAFFDELs, with exceptions only for simultaneous or overlapping visits by the President or First Lady of the United States, the Vice President, or the Secretaries of State or Defense?
Answer: Yes


Printed Name: Kimberly Smith
Date: 7/9/25

[The prepared statement of Ms. Guilfoyle follows:]

Prepared Statement of Kimberly Guilfoyle

Chairman Hagerty and esteemed Members of this committee, it is with a profound sense of honor and deep humility that I appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to serve as the United States Ambassador to Greece. I extend my sincerest gratitude to the President for his faith in my abilities and to Secretary Rubio for their collective trust and confidence placed in me. I also thank this committee for the opportunity to be here and for your careful consideration of my nomination.

I also want to thank my closest family and friends for their support and encouragement throughout this process. I want to offer special thanks and love to my son Ronan, my brother Tony Guilfoyle, and Donnie for their steadfast support.

I also want to thank my parents who would be so proud to see me here today. My mother, Mercedes, was a special education teacher from Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. My father, an immigrant from Ireland, came to this nation in pursuit of the American Dream. Now, I consider it my duty to carry on the mission and the values that they instilled in me.

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My career path has been defined by a steadfast commitment to advocacy and public engagement. As a prosecutor in the demanding environments of both San Francisco and Los Angeles, I was entrusted to be a voice for those who could not speak for themselves and to uphold the foundational principles of our legal system. This experience honed the skills of careful negotiation, clear-eyed analysis, and the pursuit of truth—qualities I believe are indispensable to effective diplomacy.

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2 percent five years ago, there are huge opportunities to sell more U.S. energy to Greece and its neighbors. If confirmed, I will work with Greece to help commercialize investments to key gas pipelines including the so-called "Vertical Corridor" between Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Central Europe, so that Greece can become a hub of U.S. gas for the region. I will also encourage Greece's progress on constructing electricity interconnectors with its neighbors including Cyprus, Israel, and Egypt, which contribute to regional energy diversification and security.

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If confirmed, I look forward to engaging with and supporting the vital work of Greek cultural and educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, municipalities, and individual citizens. I am committed to working alongside the diaspora to further strengthen these essential human connections that bind our nations in a spirit of friendship and mutual respect.

Thank you once again for the honor of appearing before you today. I am prepared to answer your questions.

Senator RICKETTS. Thank you, Ms. Guilfoyle.
Ms. Locetta.

STATEMENT OF JENNIFER LOCKETTA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Ms. LOCKETTA. Thank you, Chairman Ricketts, thank you, Chairman Risch and distinguished members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

Also a special thank you to my home State senator, Senator Ashley Moody, for the gracious introduction. Thank you for all you do for Florida.

I am grateful to be nominated by President Trump to serve as the alternate representative of the United States for Special Political Affairs at the United Nations.

I am honored by the confidence and trust placed in me by President Trump and Secretary Rubio to represent the United States and to advance American interests at the U.N.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my family as I would not be here without them. I want to thank my husband, Bryce, my almost 2 year old son Noel, my mom Denise, and my sister Kim, who are here with us today.

I would also like to thank my dad Mike and the other members of my family who are unable to be here. I appreciate everyone's love and support throughout this process.

Growing up in Florida my interest in American government and politics started at a young age, from volunteering on local campaigns to attending Girls State.

In 2015 I went to work for then candidate President Trump on his historic campaign. In the first Administration I was honored to serve as a special assistant to the President and associate director of presidential personnel.

The experiences of the past 10 years have taught me the importance of a foreign policy that benefits the American people.

If confirmed, I look forward to implementing President Trump's "America First" foreign policy agenda at the United Nations. Almost 80 years ago the United States helped to establish the United Nations to prevent future wars and promote international peace and security.

The U.N. Security Council is meant to be the heart of that principle. The United States has made many important policy achievements at the U.N. such as the Trump administration's historic efforts to negotiate a resolution that calls for an end to the conflict in the Ukraine.

The reality for the United Nations as an institution, however, is that it has not lived up to its mission or its potential. There is rampant anti-Israel bias in the U.N. system that unfairly targets Israel and undermines its sovereign right to self-defense.

Moreover, the Security Council often struggles to take decisive action on conflicts that need real time responses. Evolving threats to international security do not respect national borders and demand action.

Whether it is terrorism, illicit drugs, cybersecurity or weapons of mass destruction, these are the challenges that require U.S. leadership to ensure that the U.N. is resolving and preventing conflicts.

If confirmed, I will engage with our international partners and allies to drive long term solutions and further national interest on these issues and more, including in areas like the Middle East and in countries like Haiti, Sudan, and the Ukraine.

If confirmed, I will assess any proposal at the Security Council and General Assembly by the metric of whether it makes the United States safer, stronger, and more prosperous. Doing so will make the U.N. more efficient and effective.

This includes pushing back on countries like China to ensure that they do not exploit international organizations and standards to advance the narrow interests of the Chinese Communist Party.

I will also examine U.N. peacekeeping and special political mandates to ensure that those mandates are best focused on maintaining international peace and security, have transparent budgets, and are operating in the most efficient way possible.

If confirmed, the core of my responsibility will be to push the U.N. to return to its original mandate to maintain international peace and security.

I will advocate for our national interest, engage with international partners and allies to drive outcomes, and ensure accountability for the U.S. taxpayer dollar.

Through President Trump's agenda we can once again have peace and prosperity. I would be honored to join the Administration and work side by side with the dedicated staff at the U.S. Mis-

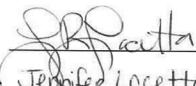
sion to the United Nations in New York. We must demand more of the U.N. because we know it has the potential and the capacity to do better.

Again, thank you for your time and the opportunity to come before you today.

NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Additional Nominee Questions**

1. Do you agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from your office available to the Committee when invited?
Answer: Yes
2. Do you commit to keeping this Committee fully informed about the activities under your purview in a timely manner?
Answer: Yes
3. Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, not just providing notification after the fact?
Answer: Yes
4. Do you commit to responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff as soon as practicable?
Answer: Yes
5. Do you agree to ensuring that Chiefs of Mission fully support CODELs and STAFFDELS, with exceptions only for simultaneous or overlapping visits by the President or First Lady of the United States, the Vice President, or the Secretaries of State or Defense?
Answer: Yes


Printed Name: Jennifer LoCetta
Date: 7/19/2025

[The prepared statement of Ms. Locetta follows:]

Prepared Statement of Jennifer Locetta

Chairman Hagerty and distinguished Members of the Committee—Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I am grateful to be nominated by President Trump to serve as the Alternate Representative of the United States for Special Political Affairs at the United Nations. I am honored by the confidence and trust placed in me by President Trump and Secretary Rubio to represent the United States and to advance American interests at the U.N.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my family, as I would not be here without them. I want to thank my husband, Bryce, my almost 2-year old son, Noel, my mom, Denise, and my sister, Kim—who are here with us today. I would also like to thank my dad, Mike, and the other members of my family who are unable to be here. I appreciate everyone's love and support throughout this process.

Growing up in Florida, my interest in American government and politics started at a young age, from volunteering on local campaigns to attending Girls State. In 2015, I went to work for then candidate, President Trump, on his historic campaign. In the first Administration I was honored to serve as a Special Assistant to the President and Associate Director of Presidential Personnel. The experiences of the past 10 years taught me the importance of a foreign policy that benefits the American people. If confirmed, I look forward to implementing President Trump's America First foreign policy agenda at the United Nations.

Almost 80 years ago, the United States helped to establish the United Nations to prevent future wars and promote international peace and security. The U.N. Security Council is meant to be the heart of that principle.

The United States has made some important policy achievements at the United Nations, such as the Trump Administration's historic efforts to negotiate a resolution that calls for an end to the conflict in Ukraine. The reality for the United Nations as an institution, however, is that it has not lived up to its mission or its potential. There is rampant anti-Israel bias in the U.N. system that unfairly targets Israel and undermines its sovereign right to self-defense. Moreover, the Security Council often struggles to take decisive action on conflicts that need real-time responses.

Evolving threats to international security do not respect national borders and demand action. Whether it is terrorism, illicit drugs, cybersecurity, or weapons of mass destruction—these are the challenges that require U.S. leadership to ensure that the U.N. is resolving and preventing conflicts. If confirmed, I will engage with our international partners and allies to drive long-term solutions and further national interests on these issues and more, including in the Middle East, and in countries like Haiti, Sudan, and Ukraine.

If confirmed, I will assess any proposal at the Security Council and the General Assembly by the metric of whether it makes the United States safer, stronger, and more prosperous. Doing so will make the U.N. more efficient and effective. This includes pushing back on countries—like China—to ensure that they do not exploit international organizations and standards to advance the narrow interests of the Chinese Communist Party. I will also examine U.N. Peacekeeping and special political mission mandates to ensure those mandates are best focused on maintaining international peace and security, have transparent budgets, and are operating in the most efficient way possible.

If confirmed, the core of my responsibility will be to push the U.N. to return to its original mandate to maintain international peace and security. I will advocate for our national interest, engage with international partners and allies to drive outcomes, and ensure accountability for U.S. taxpayer dollars. Through President Trump's agenda, we can once again have peace and prosperity.

I would be honored to join the Administration and work side-by-side with the dedicated staff at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York. We must demand more from the United Nations, because we know it has the potential and capacity to do better.

Again, thank you for your time and the opportunity to come before you today.

Senator RICKETTS. Thank you, Ms. Locetta, and thank you all for your opening remarks.

We will now move into a round of 5 minute questions as long as we have people here to ask those questions. I will begin.

Dr. Sinha, you know, Singapore is one of our more vital partners in the Indo-Pacific. On the security front it supports rotational U.S. military deployments, enables our patrols throughout the region, hosts thousands of American sailors, airmen, and their families, and is a significant buyer and user of U.S. defense technologies.

It is also a hub for maritime trade and financial services, a gateway for over 6,000 American businesses operating in Asia, and a leader in emerging technologies. Oftentimes, an American company's first step into the Indo-Pacific is in Singapore.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Singapore's Prime Minister Wong, Foreign Minister Balakrishnan, and Defense Minister Chan at the Shangri-La Dialogue, and I can confirm Singapore's desire to not only maintain our strong partnership but to build upon it.

Dr. Sinha, as ambassador what areas will you prioritize to strengthen the U.S.-Singapore partnership and deepen our cooperation?

Dr. SINHA. Thank you for your question, Senator.

As you know, I am a physician—a surgeon—so I have been a longtime bridge builder, and I believe strongly in a person to person connection.

If confirmed, my first basis would be to go there and create a very good, strong relationship with the Singapore government, and obviously, I will do my best to increase the—I will deepen the defense, security, and economic ties with Singapore. So—

Senator RICKETTS. Well, I think you should make a good connection with the foreign minister there.

Dr. SINHA. Yes.

Senator RICKETTS. I believe he is also a physician.

Dr. SINHA. Actually, between him and I there are so many things common. He went to his school and became an eye surgeon. I went to school and became an orthopedic surgeon.

His wife is a physician who became a neurologist. My wife is an anesthesiologist. And his kids are lawyers. Our kids are lawyers and doctors. So we have a strong connection already.

Senator RICKETTS. Very good. Very good.

Nebraska is the nation's fifth largest agricultural exporter with nearly \$8 billion in ag exports last year, the third highest total on record. Simply put, when Nebraska agriculture thrives so does my State.

Nebraska's impact is not just domestic, though. It is global. In western Nebraska cooperatives package and ship dry, edible beans used in the World Food Programme Humanitarian Operations, delivering American grown products to save lives in some of the world's hardest hit regions.

Ambassador Blanchard, in your testimony you discussed the dire need to bring reforms to the U.N. and its associated agencies, and I agree wholeheartedly.

You also acknowledged that billions of dollars of American agricultural exports move through these U.N. programs, which directly affects farmers and producers in my State.

How will you work to clean up the waste and mismanagement in Rome while at the same time ensuring that American farmers and producers are not unintentionally harmed?

Ambassador BLANCHARD. Thank you, Senator, for that question.

First of all, I can tell you in the first Administration we all know that President Trump's number one focus was farmers first, and I never would put anything—any words in his mouth, but I would love to just reiterate that that was his focus the first term.

And anything that benefits farmers is a win, and I can tell you as U.S.-U.N. Rome nominee Ambassador that it would be my pleasure, to continue the partnership and see how we can grow it and be sure that the partners that we are bringing in that we cannot use the maritime for because it is so far—the cost prohibitive that those partners that we are not using in the States as farmers that we need to be able to be sure that they are giving us the right deals.

When we are not using our farmers we need to be sure the others are giving us the right deals. That is one area I really want to focus on, and certainly, always increasing partnerships with U.S. farmers.

I have already had the pleasure of that. The USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins has reached out to me. She has already been to post, and we said we would discuss after, if confirmed, the hearings and see how we can increase everything for farmers in sending produce abroad.

Thank you, sir.

Senator RICKETTS. Great. Thank you, Madam Ambassador.

Senator Hagerty.

Senator HAGERTY. Thank you, Chairman Ricketts, and again, welcome to all of you.

Several of the panelists today are nominated to serve at the United Nations so I would like to start with the United Nations today, if I might.

If you think about it, the United Nations has become the poster child of ineffective bureaucracy. It is bloated. It is slow moving. It is resistant to reform. And despite the billions of dollars of annual contributions that come to the U.N., disproportionately coming from the United States, the organization remains plagued by overlapping mandates, weak accountability, and an entrenched culture of cultural inefficiency.

If I think about it, the U.N. all too often takes and diverts their resources into administrative overhead rather than front line impact. Its missions suffer from poor oversight, and its decision-making is quite often politicized.

So, Mr. Bartos, I would like to start with you. Just explain to us your plans for increasing the efficiency and the financial accountability and impact of the United Nations.

Mr. BARTOS. Senator, thank you for the question, and I want to also say thank you for your leadership from the time you got to the Senate on defunding UNRWA and working toward the dismantlement of UNRWA.

It has meant a lot to so many people, your leadership on that, and we, if confirmed, will be serving under the most consequential and effective President in history for the U.S.-Israel relationship as well as a leader whose record of combating anti-Semitism is second to none.

And so while we approach the 50th anniversary of the stain of the “Zionism is racism” resolution at the United Nations, a stain on that body that is almost 50 years old, it seems like this is an organization that is immune or—resistance is a good word but I would say almost the—it is just immune to reform.

Senator HAGERTY. Well, I think they have demonstrated their perspective, and you have a unique window of opportunity, I think.

Mr. BARTOS. I do. It is because of President Trump’s leadership—his vision, his leadership, and his charge to us that every dollar that goes through the U.N. system cannot be—the American people are the most generous people on Earth.

We have been the most generous funders. Our nation has been the most generous funders for 80 years, and the President has charged and Secretary Rubio has charged to say not a dollar of that can go to waste, fraud, and abuse, and every dollar must make us safer, stronger and more prosperous.

And I think it is with presidential leadership, leadership of the Secretary of State, and if confirmed, our team to use our generosity and the U.S.’s role at the U.N. our dollars need to matter.

They need to matter in procurement, they need to matter in personnel, and they need to matter when we say that this organization needs to be or this particular agency needs reform.

It is that presidential leadership, leadership from the Secretary, and if confirmed, our team’s leadership to execute the President’s “America First” agenda.

Senator HAGERTY. It is an organization that cries out for leadership, and frankly, respect for those that fund it. I attended the United States General Assembly meeting when President Trump spoke.

I have been there on multiple occasions with President Trump. That organization is basically out of control right now in terms of their inefficiency, their lack of respect for those that fund it, and the politicization of many of the institutions.

And on the politicization front I would like to turn to you, Ms. Locetta.

If you think about it, the U.N. was founded on principles of peace, security, and human rights, but the organization has become increasingly politicized.

If you think about the authoritarian regimes there right now that seem to dominate its institutions, they do it in a way that legitimizes their own agendas. They do it in a way that helps them avoid scrutiny.

I wanted you to talk specifically about how you would address the politicization within U.N. agencies. Think about the Human Rights Council, UNESCO, these sort of hostile authoritarian regimes often take these organizations and steer their agendas in a way that is very contrary to U.S. interests.

Ms. LOCETTA. Thank you, Senator, for your question, and I share your concern.

As you know, in February President Trump signed an executive order to withdraw the United States from the Human Rights Council. That same executive order also called for the review of our participation in international organizations to make sure that our participation aligns with national interests.

Many organizations in the U.N. have lost their way. Both the Human Rights Council and UNESCO continually serve as examples of the pervasive anti-Israel bias that exists within the U.N.

They continually push back on Israel's right to sovereign self-defense, and further an organization like the Human Rights Council enables countries with brutal regimes like Cuba, Venezuela, and North Korea to have a platform despite their own terrible records with human rights abuses.

These organizations must get back to the founding principles of the U.N. which is to prevent war and to maintain international peace and security.

If confirmed, I will work with the State Department on the outcome of their review, and I will review our participation in international organizations to make sure that everything that we do makes sure that America is stronger, safer, and more prosperous.

Senator HAGERTY. Well, beyond review I hope you hold them to account.

Mr. Chair, if you would indulge me on one final question.

I would like to come back to you, Ambassador Blanchard. I am very interested in your leadership and look forward to your leadership at the U.N.'s Food and Agricultural Organization and the related agencies in Rome.

I visited that mission in the past, and I am very concerned about the influence that exists there right now. The Director General today, Director Qu Dongyu, and his deputies have basically steered FAO priorities in the direction that supports Beijing and its desires and certainly in means that do not support the United States and our allies.

If you look ahead to the 2027 election of a new director general I would just like to know if you plan to make certain that we have either a U.S. nominee or at least an ally as a nominee to be the new director general so we can get this organization back on course.

Ambassador BLANCHARD. Thank you, Senator, for the question.

Certainly, I have been looking forward. I have already had the pleasure to speak with my deputy who has already arrived at post, and I told him, let us not get ahead of the Senate.

But he has informed me of some things, and we really would like to focus on building partnerships with our allies right away, if confirmed, when I get to post because it is the partnerships that will be able to elect all the new entities, and of course, all the infiltration, not to mention in the other areas that the CCP has tried to take over abroad in those—in our food sourcing.

So it will be my pleasure to partner with our allies and figure out how we can come together and pick a candidate that can win and that can lead this organization with like minded American initiatives.

Senator HAGERTY. Well, I look forward to a new nominee and many more purchases of Nebraska agricultural products.

And with that, I would also just like to commend all of our nominees to the U.N. You have got a challenging job ahead of you, but we absolutely need you to take care of that, and to our two country ambassador nominees I look forward to your confirmation and working with you in your future roles.

Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RICKETTS. Thank you, Senator Hagerty.

Senator Coons.

Senator COONS. Mr. Chairman, I will defer to my friend and colleague from the State of Illinois, given the pressing business of the NDAA.

Senator RICKETTS. Great.

Senator Duckworth.

Senator DUCKWORTH. Thank you.

Dr. Sinha, you say you know how important the United States-Singapore relationship is, and I think you know that it is important to me, as are all of our relationship with the ASEAN nations.

This is not a role you can just pick up on a whim, or because you think it will be glamorous, or because Singapore is a great place to live. Our diplomats are dedicated. They are hard workers who represent the United States every day on the front lines, anticipating crises and providing invaluable expertise to help prevent conflicts from exploding into catastrophes.

I am not opposed to political appointees, and in fact, my colleague across the aisle, the Senator from Tennessee, did an incredible job as an appointee to a critical United States ally, the country of Japan, and I really enjoyed working with him when he was ambassador there.

But frankly, I do not think you are particularly qualified for this role, and I am concerned about how your lack of understanding may even inadvertently cause friction in our critical relationship.

Will you even be able to effectively lead our mission in Singapore? I have my doubts. So my questions are going to be to allow you to assuage my doubts and win my vote.

Dr. Sinha, I need to know that you understand some basic facts about Singapore and its critical relationship with the United States.

For example, in 2024 did the United States have a trade deficit with Singapore, yes or no? It did not.

How large was the U.S.' trade surplus with Singapore in 2024?

Dr. SINHA. Eighty billion dollar. Eighteen billion dollars.

Senator DUCKWORTH. Two point eight. You are off by a huge factor. United States had a \$2.8 billion trade surplus with Singapore in 2024.

If confirmed, how would you explain our friendship in Singapore to the President? How would you explain to our friends in Singapore the President's threats to slap tariffs as high as 25 percent on their country, given that the United States has nearly a \$3 billion trade surplus with Singapore?

Dr. SINHA. Thank you for your question, Senator.

We are not walking away for any dialogue between the two countries and two leaders. If confirmed, I will make a personal relation with the government of Singapore, and I will make sure the dialogue continues and we settle the issues of trade together.

Senator DUCKWORTH. Do you support increasing a tariff on Singapore, seeing as how we do not have to—they buy more of our stuff than we buy of theirs.

Dr. SINHA. So, Senator, you—

Senator DUCKWORTH. So you want to put a tariff on them?

Dr. SINHA. Thank you for your question, Senator.

You know that we have—the President has only done 10 percent of trade increase with Singapore, and he is open to dialogue even for that.

Senator DUCKWORTH. Do you agree—do you agree with that 10 percent increase with Singapore seeing as how we do not have—they do not have a surplus with us?

Dr. SINHA. Well, I—

Senator DUCKWORTH. Yes or no, do you support the President's plan to put a 10 percent tariff on Singapore—goods produced in Singapore?

Dr. SINHA. I mean, Senator, thank you for your question. But I believe in President's decision of free trade with any nations in the world, and he is resetting the trade numbers with each country, and he is open for discussion and dialogue with each country.

Senator DUCKWORTH. So you would like to have free trade with Singapore? That is what you would push for as ambassador?

Dr. SINHA. Well, we always had free trade with Singapore since 2004.

Senator DUCKWORTH. So do you support the 10 percent tariff increase?

Dr. SINHA. So it is—the dialogue is not to close the door. It is not closed because—

Senator DUCKWORTH. OK. Let us go on to the next thing. What year is Singapore next scheduled to be the ASEAN chair?

Dr. SINHA. This year is Malaysia.

Senator DUCKWORTH. I did not ask you about this year. When is Singapore going to be the ASEAN chair?

Dr. SINHA. I do not know when, but this year—

Senator DUCKWORTH. 2027. Please describe what holding the ASEAN chair will entail for Singapore and how you would support Singapore in your role as U.S. Ambassador, if confirmed. What are some of the critical things that Singapore will have to do as the chair of ASEAN?

Dr. SINHA. I mean, I agree with you that you had made a statement that all the ASEAN members should be treated like—almost like—

Senator DUCKWORTH. No, answer my question. What does holding the ASEAN chairmanship entail for Singapore? Can you name one thing, a role that they would have to play as ASEAN chair? What will—

Dr. SINHA. Well, they are—you know that they are—this is a—the ASEAN chair is not only one country. There are 10 countries in—

Senator DUCKWORTH. No, the ASEAN chair is one country leading 10.

Dr. SINHA. One country but there are 10 countries involved as the ASEAN group, and—

Senator DUCKWORTH. You are not answering my question. You are not answering my question, sir. Can you name one thing that will be of critical importance to Singapore as ASEAN chair—a role? There are many things. Can you name one thing?

Dr. SINHA. Defense, economics.

Senator DUCKWORTH. Those are very broad. Name an issue.

Dr. SINHA. Trade.

Senator DUCKWORTH. I do not think—no.

OK, let us do something. In what way does the United States Navy work with Singapore and how do you envision strengthening the U.S. Navy's work with Singapore? And are there any facilities that come to mind that are central to our relationship with Singapore?

Dr. SINHA. We—thank you for your question.

But we have a naval presence in Singapore and we—our military, they always do exercise with the Singapore. They come here—the army of Singapore they come here for the training as well. So we have close ties with the Singapore in defense.

Senator DUCKWORTH. Can you name a specific thing? Please, I am trying to help you here, but you have not even done your homework, sir.

You want to be Ambassador to Singapore, one of the most important alliance—friends we have in the Indo-Pacific, a key place that we are going to be fighting against our greatest adversary in the region, the PRC.

Singapore may feature incredible culture but that should not be treated as a glamour posting. This nation is too important to the United States, to ASEAN, to the entire region, and frankly, I think the mission is important to U.S. interests and national security, and it should actually be a Foreign Service Officer.

But I have even larger concerns with a political pick when that political pick is somebody as unqualified as you. I have opposed political picks for Singapore from Democrats so this is not a—this is not a partisan issue.

I just feel that you are not taking this seriously, and you think this is a glamour posting that you are going to live a nice life in Singapore. What we need is someone who is going to actually do the work.

I am out of time. I have a couple additional questions related to management that I will submit for the record, but I want to reinforce again for you right now you are not currently prepared for this posting, period, and you need to shape up and do some homework.

Senator RICKETTS. Senator Coons.

Senator COONS. Thank you, Senator Ricketts, and thank you to all of you for your willingness to serve our nation and represent us overseas.

I will focus on the nominees for U.N. posts but no disrespect to the others. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Mr. Bartos, we have known each other well. You were introduced by both the Democrat and Republican Senators of Pennsylvania. Congratulations. Folks against whom you ran in a previous cycle—double congratulations, and to you and your family.

The U.N. is a crucial area, in my view, for the United States to advance its national interests, and as you cited in your opening comments the U.N. Charter focuses on promoting peace, security, and stability, and we need a U.N. that is focused on those priorities.

I was encouraged that you also emphasized the importance of expanding the number of Americans who are in the U.N. system globally. Over the last 15 years that I have served on this committee over several Administrations my view is that when we withdraw from the U.N. our adversaries simply advance and fill the gaps that we create.

So your challenge is going to be to balance ensuring that the money that we invest in the U.N. and the systems and organizations at the U.N. are efficient, are transparent, are delivering on their mission but to not abandon that mission, to not completely withdraw.

One of my core concerns is that the U.S.-U.N. reform process might look like what happened to the USAID. We could have had a balanced, bipartisan, measured process that looked hard at inefficiency in USAID, narrowed its focus, and prioritized an American national interest.

Instead, it was simply slashed and shut down, largely, with no consultation with Congress. If confirmed, will you commit to engaging with Congress regularly on reform efforts to ensure that there is bipartisan support both for sustained U.S. leadership in the U.N. system and for any reforms that are proposed and that you are carrying out?

Mr. BARTOS. Senator, thank you for your question, and I am smiling here because we have known each other 20 years, and who would have thought 20 years ago when we were working on sewer issues in New Castle County, Delaware, that we would be sitting here? So it is an honor to be with you.

Senator COONS. God, indeed, has a sense of humor.

Mr. BARTOS. Yes. Yes, sir. And it is wonderful to see you, and thank you for your question.

Yes, I can strongly commit and, if confirmed, look forward to working with the committee to address all of these issues.

I am inspired by Secretary Rubio's leadership. I am deeply grateful to President Trump for his leadership, and if confirmed, I look forward to working as often as you will have me with this committee to address these issues.

Thank you, sir.

Senator COONS. To your point about the importance of having Americans, how will you advance American representation in the U.N. system at the same time that there are proposals that would dramatically cut back our contributions to the system?

Mr. BARTOS. So thank you for the question.

In his first term President Trump established the directive that we were to have an agency at IO at the State Department to focus on either elections where United States citizens could run and/or be appointed to certain agency heads. That office all and any of us involved in politics would love to have a record that that office has achieved over the last 5 years.

If memory serves it is something like 28 contested positions and 23 or 24 successful candidates. It is a fantastic record. Credit to President Trump for his leadership on that issue in his second term and, again, I am a citizen.

I am not currently at post or in the State Department, but if confirmed one of the things in my briefings that I really perked up at

and thought was this a huge opportunity is the terrific team at State, at IO, that is working on these issues and work—

Senator COONS. I would agree it has been a sustained success across several Administrations to keep advancing Americans for positions of leadership. One sitting to your right is nominated to lead an important food related agency.

The previous head, a Chinese national, was an alarming example of what happens to a critical U.N. agency when we do not have either American or American aligned leadership.

Last question for you, and then I have one question, if I might, for Ms. Guilfoyle.

I believe investing in peacekeeping as a core part of the U.N. mission. I agree with you, we should have zero tolerance for abuse. I worked with Chairman Corker now many years ago on investigations and transparency around peacekeeping.

How will we sustain our peacekeeping engagement when the President's proposed budget zeros out all U.S. contributions to peacekeeping, and the rescission that will be on the floor next week would claw back \$360 million? How do we balance that? How do we sustain an effective voice in peacekeeping while there are proposals to withdraw all support?

Mr. BARTOS. Senator, thank you for the question.

As a citizen I have not currently read into any of the issues relating to the reorganization or how that is approaching. I can say generally, though, if confirmed I look forward to immediately getting stuck into those issues, to learn about those issues, and to working with this committee.

I think on the broader point about peacekeeping operations and the successful ones versus the unsuccessful ones, having clear objectives and a clear exit strategy is an outstanding roadmap for any of these endeavors.

Senator COONS. Broadly, we are in agreement on that point. I look forward to continuing our conversation.

Mr. BARTOS. Thank you, Senator.

Senator COONS. Ms. Guilfoyle, if I might, just because the U.S.-Greece relationship is important to me, to my State, to our nation, under the first Trump administration there was a so called 3+1 co-operation launched between the United States, Greece, Cyprus, and Israel.

Give me your sense of what difference that has made, what is its current status, and whether you would commit to sustaining this level of cooperation in this structure.

Ms. GUILFOYLE. Yes, thank you for the question, Senator.

I believe this is a very important area of concern as it relates to national security in Greece and Cyprus, Israel, all being very strategic and powerful allies, steadfast and reliable throughout the years, and this has just increased under President Trump's last Administration.

We are looking forward to making sure that those partnerships remain intact, and in fact, foster and develop. I believe firmly, if confirmed as Ambassador to Greece, that I will work tirelessly to make sure that Greece national security interests and our strategic allies in that partnership remain very strong and robust, working in concert, in conjunction, with the United States of America be-

cause national security in those areas and those countries directly equates with national security for the United States of America, and I would ensure that we increase the commitment that has been consistent by the people of Greece to do the defense spending, buying U.S. military equipment, which they have been doing, and see to it that we are going to project to include up to 5 percent from them.

Senator COONS. Anything for me about why the 3+1 mechanism is particularly important?

Ms. GUILFOYLE. Well, geopolitically, as you know, that is a very complex region with a lot of security issues, migration issues.

We saw recently what has happened, and you know, Greece, where it occupies its place in the world is that southeastern edge of Europe, which is pivotal in terms of its relationship, its proximity, to the Middle East.

So we saw then with the cooperation with our allies making sure that American citizens that were stranded and at great risk and danger in Israel were protected and were transported with ease and efficiency, despite the complex issues involving visas.

Our partners, our allies in Greece were able to help effectuate that in a timely and safe fashion bringing people through Cyprus, through Greece, and into Athens.

Thank you for the question.

Senator COONS. Thank you, ma'am.

Thank you all, and I look forward to working with you.

Thank you.

Senator RICKETTS. Senator Barrasso.

Senator BARRASSO. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

To follow up, Ms. Guilfoyle, on what you were just talking about with the NATO and the importance of the relationship and how closely we are aligned, there is a military build, naval support activity, Souda Bay, a vital U.S. military installation. There is going to be updates. I think \$44 million has been committed to invest in a new joint mobility processing center in that area.

Could you just overall give us some things, what opportunities you see for increased cooperation with Greece as these upgrades are completed because you I think appropriately called attention to the fact that all of these countries have now committed to going up to 5 percent?

Ms. GUILFOYLE. They have, which I think is incredibly important. I was committed to at the alliance and at The Hague and that is something that I know that these countries have intentionality to fulfill and to continue that commitment that they made to us.

Thank you for bringing up these questions, Senator. Souda Bay, as you know, is the largest U.S. military base in Greece. It is strategically and geopolitically critical to the United States. It has been a really wonderful asset for us, for our military base, especially in that area of the world.

So we are going to continue to look forward to that and make sure, and if confirmed, I planned to visit all of these facilities to deepen my keen understanding of the issues, the people, the needs, so that we maintain that strength for American interests and American national security.

Revithoussa is also incredibly important because there are unbelievable opportunities for liquid natural gas, which could be crucial to limit the influence—undue influence in the region of Russia, of China, and make sure that we push back on that on a daily basis.

There are certain things that have happened that have been very disheartening as it relates to national security in the port of Piraeus where the Chinese were allowed to gain access and purchase that.

What I am proud to say is the Greek people have now implemented a system that somewhat mimics what we have here in the United States, CFIUS, to prevent from foreign interests and countries encroaching on sovereign nations and buying up key national security ports and interests.

So that is something that I was encouraged, that that has happened recently in the past month or so, and I look forward to partnering with them to make sure that we can use some of our models of best practices in those ways to make sure that there is an over encroachment of foreign influence and interest in key ports and work with them strategically to help understand how we are able to prevent that in the United States of America.

Thank you for the question.

Senator BARRASSO. Well, I appreciate your comment about energy because I think of energy as the master resource. Greece, I think, is quickly becoming a major energy hub in the eastern Mediterranean.

You talked about LNG. They have expanded their LNG terminals. I think they have earlier this year signed an agreement with Chevron and ExxonMobil to do more.

So just generally, could you give us a little thought on American energy companies in Greece's energy sector and how will you support and encourage this effort for more energy?

Ms. GUILFOYLE. Yes. Great opportunities that I mentioned exist with Revithoussa with the LNG terminal, which is key to that regional energy strategy, also in Alexandroupoli, the LNG terminal that is essential for U.S. energy exports and for Balkan access.

So this is, again, why I would like to just stress the importance of Greece, the seriousness of this position, the opportunity we have to grow and strengthen the alliance and the bond between the Greek Americans and the United States of America and those living, working, visiting in Greece to ensure their safety, productivity, and make sure that their needs are met.

And I really look forward to working with the absolutely incredible people that are so talented in the State Department and the careers and the people that are currently serving in the embassy working tirelessly to ensure that American interests are represented and to work for President Trump to effectuate his goals, his beliefs, for the United States of America.

Senator BARRASSO. Thank you.

Mr. Bartos, the U.S. is the United Nations' largest financial contributor, provides more funding than all other permanent Security Council members combined.

I hear about that in Wyoming a lot. People are not really happy with this. Despite this significant investment, the U.N. has struggled to implement meaningful budgetary discipline to demonstrate

consistent fiscal accountability. I think next week this committee is going to have a hearing with the nominee to be our U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

The U.S. contribution represents about 22 percent of the U.N.'s total budget. How are you going to ensure that the financial burdens at the U.N. are shared more equitably and in accordance with current economic realities, and are you committed to limiting the growth of U.N. regular budget and ensuring that the U.N. makes more efficient use of its existing resources?

Mr. BARTOS. Senator, thank you for the question.

As you stated, the United States—the generosity of the American people knows almost no bounds. We have been the most generous supporter of the United Nations system since it was founded 80 years ago, and we are the most generous nation on Earth, and proudly so.

But our fellow citizens, all Americans, deserve to know that every dollar that they send, every hard earned dollar that an American taxpayer sends to the United Nations, must not, cannot go to any—a dollar, a penny, cannot go to waste, fraud and abuse, and every dollar must go to support programs and policies that make our nation safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

If confirmed, I will devote all of my energies. We are 22 percent of the regular budget, as you say, sir. We are 25 percent of the peacekeeping budget limited by statute.

The U.N. seeks to assess us at 26.1 percent. And so it is incumbent upon my role, if confirmed, on the Fifth Committee and Budget and Oversight to root out all of this waste and to make—and really—and I said this before—with President Trump's leadership, with the Secretary's leadership, and if they are charged to us, if confirmed, our team will have that presidential leadership to go there and make sure that those reforms are implemented.

Our dollars carry a lot of weight, but over the last 80 years, they have not—as you say, they actually have not really been put to the best use by the system to the United States' interests.

We need to do better. We must do better, and I commit to you, sir, if confirmed, I will—we will do better.

Senator BARRASSO. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RICKETTS. Senator Booker.

Senator BOOKER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I am really excited about the U.S.-Greece relationship and the promise and the possibilities. I have so been grateful, Ms. Guilfoyle, of what you have already discussed.

Can we dive a little bit more deeply into some of the strategic importance of the work that we are doing and that we can build upon I think in the coming months with your leadership?

Ms. GUILFOYLE. [Off mic.] Thank you.

Senator BOOKER. Thank you. If you could put your microphone on I would appreciate that.

So you mentioned the base in Alexandroupoli. Also, I want to mention the base at Souda Bay and how important they are to the U.S.-Greece Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement, and I am wondering if the Administration is planning to—any upgrades to

those existing bases, given their pivotal strategic importance in that region as you already discussed.

And do you share the perspective that maintaining and increasing the capacity at Alexandroupoli is important?

Ms. GUILFOYLE. Yes. Senator, thank you for the question. It is nice to see you.

I believe this is such an important relationship. The Administration believes it as well. This is a post where we are dealing with EU, G-20, a lot of complex issues geopolitically in that area, and I think it is incredibly important.

Again, I am speaking now in the role of a private citizen. I would work in conjunction with the State Department, Senator Rubio, the deputy secretaries, and also following in the mission of American interests moving forward to make sure that we are ready in that area, that that relationship and partnership is maintained, that if there are necessary improvements or expenditures that need to be made that I would advocate in that fashion very strenuously on behalf of the United States of America and the American people.

Senator BOOKER. I am grateful for that. That is the kind of strength I want. The tradition in the Ambassador to Greece we had with George Tsunis was probably the best bipartisan ambassador, and I am sure you know him.

Ms. GUILFOYLE. My dear friend who is here today.

Senator BOOKER. Yes, yes. I did not want to call him out. He does not like attention. He is very shy so—

[Laughter.]

Ms. GUILFOYLE. He is Greek. I mean—

[Laughter.]

Senator BOOKER. Yes.

Ms. GUILFOYLE. They can hear us.

Senator BOOKER. Yes, yes. Thank you. Let us continue.

I have a lot of concerns about the Greek-Turkey tensions, and it is something I think all of us should be giving more attention to.

When I visited Greece last year and had the pleasure of being with the ambassador for some time there was really calm between Greece and Turkey, between Athens and Ankara.

The prime minister of Greece and the president of Turkey met last year twice to try to reduce those tensions, but I am concerned that with regard to sovereignty challenges, maritime borders, those tensions exist and could be real points that get inflamed.

Tell me about your concern, and I have heard from a lot of my constituents in the Greek diaspora as well as from my travels, it is critical, I believe, that the U.S. does not tolerate any threats to the sovereignty of our European allies especially Greece.

Ms. GUILFOYLE. Senator, again, thank you for the question.

Yes, this is a very important issue, and I know there is a lot of concern from Greece, from Israel, from Cyprus, et cetera, regarding any increasing of weaponization in Turkey with the F-35s.

Again, I am speaking as a private citizen. I do not direct or maintain policy, but I know this is an area of concern to the Administration as well.

I know that President Trump is the best negotiator and diplomat to be able to engage with different countries to find meaningful ways to work together.

I would like to make sure that we are protecting and honoring our strategic, consistent, stable, and reliable allies with Greece. They have answered the call every time. They have exceeded our expectations.

They have readily committed to the 3 percent consistent in that regard, and Greece remains strong and proud as the fifth largest spender for military equipment in the world.

Senator BOOKER. I am going to interrupt you here. I am running out of time.

But I want to say I thank you. I associate myself with a lot of that bravado when it comes to Greece. So thank you. Thank you very much.

I just want to say I have got some bipartisan work on, really, the importance of the India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor. It is really vital. I hope to be able to talk to you about that. I know you know the importance of that and how the 3+1 framework between Israel, Greece, and Cyprus work into that.

But I want to shift in my remaining seconds, really, to talk to Ms. Blanchard. I am really concerned about food security and things are getting exponentially worse on our planet.

It is estimated right now, unfortunately, the Trump administration's foreign assistance cuts have already resulted in over 63,000 children dying unnecessarily from hunger. This is heartbreaking. It is a violation of the decency and values of our country.

The Rome based U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization, the WFP, the FAO, the IFAD—these are critical tools to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities who are at risk of hunger.

Hunger leads not just to horrible death that is deplorable, but it also leads to instability that ultimately could affect our security.

So, if confirmed, how will you seek to advance the programs that address long term food security challenges? How do you propose to do that if the U.S. is actually reducing its funding and commitment?

And as you know, other nations watch us. When we reduce they reduce. When we challenge them to do more, as I have done in a bipartisan way here in past years, they do more.

And so what impact ultimately do you think the reduction in U.S. funding will have on food insecure countries and communities worldwide?

Ambassador BLANCHARD. Senator, thank you for the question.

As we all know, food security is bipartisan. We all are in agreement of that. But I do believe we are all in agreement as well of our accountability for our checkbooks.

I mean, I account for things that go in and out of my checkbook at home, and I think it is wonderful to reevaluate, and I look forward to the reevaluation process.

I personally—and I would never want to put words in the President's mouth, but the fact that he has nominated someone for this position is encouraging to me. I have worked for the last 20 years in helping orphans and the most vulnerable abroad in 12 different countries. I am a believer in it.

I realize it is national security, but I do also realize that there has been instances where malaligned players have gotten a hold of food in—and used it against us or our allies.

So I certainly look forward to meeting with you and this whole committee in the future—

Senator BOOKER. So I am out of time. I want to be respectful. I just want to say this.

When I was on the Chad-Sudan border, and I have never had a situation—I visited refugee camps all around this world, where pleading Americans were begging me to up food assistance and were being very clear with me as I looked at malnourished babies of what would happen if we did not increase food assistance.

Well, we have done worse. We have limited funding, and I have now heard directly about the children that have died there. There is a moral urgency that I know reflects deeply within your faith tradition and my faith tradition.

I just—I beg of you publicly when it comes to crises like we are seeing in Sudan to please be a call of conscience to this Administration, should you be confirmed, to please demand in private that we step up to American tradition and the moral urgency that has been supported in a bipartisan way.

We are watching children die at rates that should stun the conscience of Americans, and I am hoping that you can help us to address that crisis.

So thank you very much.

Ambassador BLANCHARD. Thank you, Senator.

Senator RICKETTS. Senator Risch.

Senator RISCH. Thank you.

Ms. Guilfoyle, I want to drill down a little bit more into the issues between Greece and Turkey.

Ms. GUILFOYLE. Certainly.

Senator RISCH. You know, they are both NATO allies, and I have to tell you I have started to use that word pretty advisedly when it comes to Turkey. I fought with them. I led the charge to get Sweden and Finland into NATO, and it was incredibly frustrating.

Turkey was using its power—because everything has to be done unanimously in NATO—to keep them out and it was a huge fight. And the other thing as far as Turkey is concerned, I am the one that put the hold on the F-35s.

The F-35s they bought and paid for are still sitting in the United States because I have got a hold on them, and I am going to continue to have that hold for a lot of different reasons.

But the relationship between Greece and Turkey does not get nearly the play in the media here that actually exists. I wind up dealing with it all the time because I am Chairman of the committee.

One of the things I am particularly interested in is the argument they are having and the fight they have been having for a long time over a territorial dispute.

I do not know how familiar you are with that, but I would like to hear your thoughts on that.

And the other thing I would like to hear your thoughts on and I would recommend to you is your predecessor, George Tsunis, who is here.

He and the—and our Ambassador to Turkey had a very, very close relationship, and I talk to them frequently, and they were really good at sorting out the issues between the two of them.

So I would urge that you—that you make that same kind of connection with our Ambassador to Turkey.

But your thoughts on that relationship and some of the things we might be able to do. The Greeks have been legitimately calling out for our help for a long time on a lot of these, and they are very difficult issues, obviously, between two allies.

But your thoughts, please.

Ms. GUILFOYLE. Thank you. Thank you, Chairman, for that thoughtful question. It is one thing I think that is going to be a main and primary focus in addition to some other issues if I am confirmed to be Ambassador to Greece.

I do enjoy a very close relationship with Ambassador Barrack in Turkey. I have known him for a very long time, and I have a very close relationship with Ambassador George Tsunis. I think this will be pivotal to making sure that we are ready and able to exceed expectations on day one.

I look forward to working with Ambassador Barrack on this tough issue in addition to following the direction of the President of the United States.

Sir, as you mentioned earlier, Turkey is precluded by U.S. law that you put forward from actually acquiring the F-35s. There are choices that people and countries make in life, and Turkey has chosen to work with the Russians with the S-400s.

I think it is imperative that we focus and point out the juxtaposition of a strong, steady ally who has answered the call and exceeded the expectations like Greece and someone who, yes, is in NATO but also needs to follow suit and be that same kind of strong and strategic ally.

We do not have that at this point in time, and again, I am speaking on behalf myself as a private citizen. I look forward to getting more information, to getting deeper into the issues, following the direction of the President of the United States and also working with my esteemed Ambassador Tom Barrack to resolve some of these issues.

But again the big focus has to be what are we going to do in that area. It is so imperative for national security and for the United States of America that we also protect those strong allies that we have in Cyprus, in Israel, and in Greece, and I will make sure that as my mission objective and focus to do just that, if confirmed.

Senator RISCH. Well, thank you. I think you and Tom are going to be a real team there, I really think, and I appreciate that. The issues that Turkey has are not irresolvable.

They are resolvable if cooler heads would prevail, but with Erdogan we just—it seems like it is going backward every year rather than forward.

So I hope you are able to turn that around, and your comments about the Greek community here in the United States could not be more right on. What a great community of people supporting Americana and Americana issues.

Ms. GUILFOYLE. Chairman, if I may, just to say that that has been very evident, and it has been consistent for so many years and they are—they care deeply about this country.

We have 3 million Greek Americans living in the United States of America in the diaspora and 10 million incredible patriots that

live in Greece that they want to work very strongly to help and support the United States, and their intentions are clear.

Thank you for the question.

Senator RISCH. Thank you. I am out of time but I just want to say, Mr. Bartos, the title of your job having to do with U.N. management and reform, that is an oxymoron, if I have ever heard one and I got a lot of issues there.

Secretary Guterres comes to see me every once in a while, and the first thing I do is drag out the charter and say, what are you doing about this, because man, it just is not working, and we are pumping a tremendous amount of money into it. There are a lot of us not very happy about that.

I wish you well. We will work with you every way that we can, and my time is up.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BARTOS. Thank you, Chairman.

Senator RICKETTS. Senator Van Hollen.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and congratulations to all of you on your nominations.

I know Senator Booker covered some of the topics I wanted to, but I am going to dig a little more deeply into those.

So, Ms. Guilfoyle, congratulations on your nomination. As you know, Greece is a critical American ally. The U.S.-Greece relationship has grown to probably one of the most strongest and enduring relationships based on common values, based on defense cooperation, based on strong people to people ties, energy collaboration, and the important role they have played also with respect to fighting back against Putin's war of aggression against Ukraine.

And that last point indicates that, you know, Greece also plays an important regional role, so your responsibilities as Ambassador, of course, are to deepen the bilateral relationship or to support that but also take a look at the broader picture.

And recently Turkey submitted a maritime spatial plan to UNESCO that reflects claims—maritime claims—that have been disputed by Greece. Are you aware of that plan that was submitted?

Ms. GUILFOYLE. Senator, thank you for the question.

I am aware of the plan. I am not deeply familiar with the plan because I have not been confirmed, and if confirmed that is one of the areas that I want to work with the Senators and Congressmen and the talented people at the State Department, Secretary Rubio, to make sure that we have a strong command of that situation as well, and with Ambassador Barrack.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. I appreciate that. So I guess one question would be the approach that you take because a lot of the actions Turkey has taken both with respect to intrusion into Greek airspace, into Greek waters, obviously create possibilities of conflict, which we would hope to avoid.

Do you agree that as we approach these kind of issues that we should do it based on the international law—in other words, the international rules of the road with respect to maritime rights?

Ms. GUILFOYLE. Thank you for the question.

As a former prosecutor—I have been an attorney for, what, 30+ years—I have the utmost respect for the rule of law.

I believe it should be adhered to, and then there is the additional aspects to consider of what is the State Department policy, what is the position of the President of the United States as it relates to American interests, will it make us stronger, safer, more prosperous.

All of those need to be applied to these complex matrices to make sure that we know that we are acting in the best interest of the United States, and because Greece is so important and pivotal geopolitically it is a key place in the region that must be respected.

And I am a strong believer that we are sending a message to the rest of the world if we do not treat our most strongest and strategic and consistent and steadfast allies like Greece in an appropriate manner, to honor and respect the commitment that they have made to the United States of America, and as you mentioned, with our shared values, this is of pivotal importance and I do believe, again, speaking privately and not as a confirmed ambassador, if confirmed, would work very hard to make sure that we are really keeping that distinction about who has been acting in the best interest of the United States of America in accordance with the President's viewpoints, in accordance with our national security interests and foreign policy interests, and I think there is a strong juxtaposition between allies who have and have not.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. I am going to have to reclaim—my time is running out.

I appreciate that. I just want to underscore the fact that Greece sees it in its interests to apply international law—international maritime law—and I would hope that the U.S. position is that we also respect maritime law and not support or look the other way when that is being violated.

But your answer, of course, opened the door to looking the other way, and you know, depending on other factors.

So let me just—I need to turn to Ambassador Blanchard, and I know Senator Booker covered some of this.

As you know, the President's budget, you know, envisions very deep cuts to the U.N. generally including deep cuts to the U.N. humanitarian and food programs.

Among the U.N. entities that you will be responsible for working with is the World Food Programme which, as you know, is headed by an American who I believe is doing a very good job, Cindy McCain.

But the World Food Programme is currently facing a 40 percent overall funding cut. The projections are that as many as 58 million people will be put at greater risk of starvation. There have been cuts by the Administration to the PL 480 program.

There was just a report the other day about Kansas farmers who used to support the PL 480 program now looking to essentially use their products for dog food when they would prefer to be part of the World Food Programme and PL 480.

So my question to you is pretty simple. Within this Administration will you be an advocate—an advocate for increasing U.S. support for the World Food Programme?

Ambassador BLANCHARD. Sir, Senator, thank you for the question. I look forward to working with your team once confirmed, but I will say after the reevaluation I am sure that the President has

the three focuses in mind—does it make us more prosperous, safer, and stronger as Americans—and I look forward to working in those areas once the reevaluation is done.

I do know that in my—this is just as a private citizen—that 85 percent of the funding that we have given to World Food Programme is still in use, and I applaud that.

I also applaud that Ms. McCain's focus is on public-private partnerships at the moment, and I have heard that has been doing well.

I see that as a wonderful addition to World Food Programme and look forward to partnering with her as leader of the program, and certainly after the reevaluation would really want to immediately get engaged with this committee on where we need to focus as a team because it is critical.

Food security is national security, and we all love our farmers, and we want the best for our farmers, and that is where they make a lot of money.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. All right. I look forward to working with you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RICKETTS. Thank you, Senator Van Hollen.

Thank you all very much for your time today. I appreciate it.

Again, this is an impressive hearing. It shows why President Trump's nominees have been put forward for these roles.

For the information of the members of the committee, the record will remain open until close of business tomorrow, Thursday, July 10, for members to submit questions for the record.

This hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:46 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

Additional Material Submitted for the Record

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED TO ANJANI SINHA BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

Question. What is your assessment of the current bilateral relationship with Singapore—and if you are confirmed as Ambassador—what would be your top priorities?

Answer. The United States and Singapore enjoy a strong bilateral relationship. Our strategic partnership has important benefits for the American people, American business, the U.S. military, and our commitment to a prosperous and secure Indo-Pacific region. If confirmed, I will work to broaden and deepen our already close bilateral ties.

Question. What specific areas of the bilateral relationship are you hoping to deepen?

Answer. Singapore is a key strategic partner and friend in the Indo-Pacific. If confirmed, I will work to deepen our defense and security cooperation, economic and trade relationship, and people-to-people ties.

Question. Singapore's Changi naval base is one of the few facilities in the world that can accommodate a U.S. aircraft carrier, allowing for regular port visits. How do you plan to advance the U.S.-Singapore defense relationship, including continued access to military facilities and joint training exercises?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to advance and implement the priorities and policies of the United States and promote U.S. interests. This includes working to expand and deepen our defense cooperation with Singapore, one of our strongest defense partners in the region for nearly 35 years.

Question. How would you engage with Singapore on ASEAN matters, and how would you encourage a stronger U.S. presence in Southeast Asian multilateral diplomacy?

Answer. The United States remains steadfast in our commitment to Southeast Asia, and we remain active and engaged to protect our interests and defend our allies and partners. As a likeminded partner, Singapore is key to U.S. efforts in the region, including with ASEAN. If confirmed, I will work closely with Singapore to advance our shared interests.

Question. What prior experience do you have managing complex, cross-functional teams in a diplomatic or international setting?

Answer. I have a strong understanding and respect for the cultures, people, and values of the Indo-Pacific region. My experience as a New York based medical professional and surgeon of 40 years has required me to attract and care for an incredibly diverse and global universe of patients and clients. I have correspondingly coordinated ongoing care for international patients, requiring familiarity with foreign healthcare systems, cultural nuances and language barriers. I have been licensed and practiced medicine overseas in India, an experience that can inform me how to navigate complex international frameworks. If confirmed, I will rely on my skills as a lifelong bridge-builder, who has been able to make important connections with people from all walks of life.

Question. Can you describe your leadership style and how you would apply it in managing an embassy team?

Answer. I have experience leading large, distributed, multi-functional teams. I regularly encourage my team members and staff to take on additional responsibilities and I have a lifelong track record sponsoring their continued professional development. I promote a workplace culture of team collaboration, and open dialogue and discussion both, with me and across functions. If confirmed, I will similarly rely and call on the incredible talent and knowledge of our State Department and the inter-agency team at our U.S. Embassy in Singapore.

**RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO ANJANI SINHA BY SENATOR TAMMY DUCKWORTH**

Question. In a meeting with my staff, you referred to an individual as “oriental.” Are you aware that in 2016, the United States passed a law eliminating references to “oriental” in Federal law?

Answer. Thank you for sharing this information. I do not recall using this descriptor during our meeting. I was not aware of this change to Federal law. Although I do not recall using said descriptor, I would not have intended any offense.

Question. Do you believe the term “oriental” is offensive?

Answer. Although I do not recall using said descriptor, I would not have intended any offense.

Question. Do you commit to refraining from further use of this term, or any derogatory language, in future and especially while representing the U.S. as Ambassador to Singapore, if confirmed?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, you have my commitment.

Question. In a meeting with my staff, you referenced a “girl” who you later clarified you thought would be your secretary at post. Do you think this is appropriate language to use for people you will oversee in an office?

Answer. I did not intend to offend or disparage anyone with my reference to my future staff, and if confirmed, I will strive to use professional and respectful terminology when referring to my staff.

Question. Do you commit to using respectful language for all persons you will oversee at the U.S. Embassy in Singapore?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I do.

Question. Do you commit to empowering individuals serving the United States at our Embassy in Singapore, and especially female employees?

Answer. Yes, absolutely. Employees are our most important asset, and I am dedicated to professional development and helping employees grow and advance. I have a lifelong track record of doing so, and going above and beyond for my own employ-

ees. I appreciate what women contribute to our workforce and as I mentioned in my opening statement, I owe gratitude to all the strong women in my life who have accomplished so much, from my widowed mother, four sisters and, of course, my wife, an accomplished anesthesiologist, and my daughter, a successful businesswoman—they have all supported me through my life and my career in many ways.

Question. Has anyone ever filed a complaint against you, including in an office setting, alleging harassment or discrimination? If so, please provide details and how the matter was resolved.

Answer. Not to my knowledge.

Question. If confirmed, do you commit to ensuring that any complaints regarding harassment or discrimination are handled in accordance with State Department procedures?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I intend to comply with all proper channels and procedures and reporting requirements. I intend to work with my DCM to create an environment free from discrimination and harassment.

Question. Do you commit to ensuring all employees at the U.S. Embassy in Singapore are aware of their rights to file an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) complaint?

Answer. Yes.

Question. Do you understand that retaliation against employees is prohibited by Federal law?

Answer. Yes, I do.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO JEFFREY BARTOS BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. If confirmed, what are the top three reforms you will seek to secure?

Answer. The U.N. must return to its founding mission of promoting peace and security around the world. I will work to move the institution back toward this mission and advance President Trump's America-first, peace-through-strength foreign policy.

This includes eliminating redundant mandates and duplicative activities and significantly streamlining the U.N. budget and staff footprint.

If confirmed, I will work to hold the U.N. accountable and demand the highest standards of transparency, efficiency, professionalism, and integrity of the institution.

Question. How can you lower the United States assessment of both the U.N. regular budget and the peacekeeping budget?

Answer. As a public servant, and if confirmed, I will work to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly and effectively. We will prioritize American interests.

This past June, the U.N. General Assembly's Fifth Committee, or the Administrative and Budgetary Committee, reduced the U.N. peacekeeping budget by over \$200 million compared to last year's budget.

In response to U.S.-driven analysis and consistent pressure, the U.N. also updated its budget methodology to ensure effective and efficient use of air assets in missions, saving over \$20 million so far in 2025.

If confirmed, I will continue to push for long-term structural cost savings in peacekeeping missions to ensure continued sustainability and effective use of our taxpayer dollars, as well as reviewing the effectiveness and necessity of individual peacekeeping missions.

Question. How will you evaluate peacekeeping missions?

Answer. If confirmed, I am committed to demanding accountability from the U.N. to demonstrate the effectiveness of all peacekeeping missions. If we cannot enable missions to effectively deliver on their mandates, or when hostility is so great that it significantly undermines mission success, we will look to commensurate reductions in their mandates or even eliminating them.

If confirmed, I will work with my colleagues to review the programmatic effectiveness of individual peacekeeping missions and ensure these mission mandates are realistic and achievable, with clear exit strategies for each mission.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO LYNDA BLANCHARD BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. The U.S. has long sought to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of U.N. bodies, including the U.N. food agencies. What areas for reform do you hope to prioritize within FAO, WFP, and IFAD?

Answer. The UN's Rome-based agencies are subject to both internal and external audits, which monitor the transparent and accountable use of Member States' financial contributions—including U.S. taxpayer dollars.

I understand that Secretary Rubio is conducting a 180-day review of U.S. engagement in all international intergovernmental organizations, pursuant to Executive Order 14199.

If confirmed, and pending the outcome of this review, I will work closely with these organizations to address all audit recommendations. I will also pursue other reform recommendations that have not been addressed but are necessary to end wasteful spending.

I will also work with partner countries to urge the Rome-based agencies to focus on their core mandate, keeping in mind that reforms must make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

Question. The U.S. works both bilaterally and through multilateral institutions—including the U.N. food and agriculture agencies in Rome—to ameliorate humanitarian conditions, promote food security, and catalyze agriculture-led economic growth in developing countries. In your view, what is the appropriate balance between U.S. bilateral and multilateral assistance for food aid and food security?

Answer. The appropriate balance between multilateral and bilateral foreign assistance depends on many variables, including the operational context, complexity of the crisis, and the level of humanitarian access.

I understand that Secretary Rubio is conducting a 180-day review of U.S. engagement in all international intergovernmental organizations pursuant to Executive Order 14199.

If confirmed, and pending the outcome of the review, I am committed to ensuring lifesaving programs funded by U.S. taxpayer dollars, whether bilateral or multilateral, are strategic investments that support our partners and make our own country safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

Question. Are there instances when U.S. bilateral assistance might be more appropriate than assistance delivered through the U.N. agencies for food and agriculture?

Answer. In my view, the right balance between direct financial support and in-kind food assistance depends on the operational context. There is no universal "one-size-fits-all" approach.

For example, in-kind food assistance may be better in situations where there are no functioning markets or infrastructure has been destroyed by conflict or natural disasters. Direct financial support may work better in stable contexts where support of the local economy is a priority.

If confirmed, I am committed to working to find the right balance for these different contexts to ensure that U.S.-funded foreign assistance advances American interests.

Question. What role could or should the private sector play in promoting food security and catalyzing agriculture-led economic growth?

Answer. Through resources, expertise, and global reach, private enterprises can complement and add value to government and international efforts to create a more resilient and secure global food system.

The private sector can play a crucial role in addressing global food security by investing in and developing agricultural innovation and technology to increase productivity and sustainability.

Public-private partnerships can enhance infrastructure, supply chains, and distribution networks, ensuring food reaches vulnerable populations. Additionally, the private sector can promote sustainable practices through efficient production and logistics.

If confirmed, I commit to exploring these possibilities further.

Question. Please describe how you would hope to work with colleagues at USUN New York, the Bureau of International Organizations (IO), and other stakeholders on recruiting and retaining qualified Americans for placement and promotion with the U.N. system?

Answer. Increasing U.S. citizen representation at the U.N. is one of the most effective and strategic ways to instill U.S. values in the multilateral system and counter our strategic competitors' malign influence.

If confirmed, I will continue the Administration's efforts to actively support U.S. candidates both in appointed positions and in elections with all stakeholders, including with colleagues at USUN in New York and in the Bureau of International Organizations (IO).

I will advocate for the streamlining of inefficiencies in U.N. hiring processes.

Question. Do you commit, if confirmed, to personally attending board meetings and high-level meetings as appropriate for the organizations that you will be confirmed to represent the U.S.?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, and pending the outcome of the review, I will attend high-level meetings as appropriate and work to advance U.S. interests in the U.N. system to ensure our nation is safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO KIMBERLY GUILFOYLE BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. Greece is a strategic U.S. ally, both as a member of the NATO alliance and a key player in the Eastern Mediterranean. As Ambassador, how will you advance U.S. and Greek efforts to address our mutual security challenges in the region?

Answer. The United States and Greece share interests in peace, stability, and prosperity in a strategic region straddling the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. If confirmed, I will strongly support Greece's stabilizing regional leadership and fully leverage the U.S.-Greece Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement (MDCA) to sustain our joint operations in the region on behalf of U.S., bilateral, and Alliance security objectives. The MDCA facilitates significant opportunities for joint training between U.S. and Greek forces and provides U.S. forces vital access to the Eastern Mediterranean and broader region.

If confirmed, I will also ensure the U.S. defense industry is best positioned to support and benefit from Greece's modernization plans and commitment to spend at least \$29 billion on military equipment over the next 12 years. Greece sees the United States as a defense partner of choice, and I will focus on deepening this strategic partnership and ensuring it delivers on behalf of U.S. interests.

Question. Greece is a model NATO partner and strategic ally, not to mention a top buyer of U.S. defense articles. How can we continue to grow our strong defense relationship with Greece and highlight it as an example of what we hope to see from all our NATO partners?

Answer. Greece has prioritized strengthening bilateral relations with the United States and is committed to reaching NATO's defense spending goal of 5 percent of GDP within 10 years.

In 2024, Greece ranked eighth among 189 countries and international organizations in the volume of U.S. Foreign Military Sales, demonstrating Greece's close security partnership with the United States. Over the past year alone, Greece has moved forward on significant defense procurements from the United States, including 20 F-35s, 35 Black Hawk helicopters, and three MH-60R anti-submarine helicopters, among others. Greece has also been an active customer of the U.S. Excess Defense Articles program, especially for coast and island patrol vessels.

Greece's proposed plans to co-produce next-generation Constellation-class ships with the United States in Greece would bring tangible economic benefits to Greece and American shipyards, boost the defense industrial bases of both of our countries, and strengthen NATO interoperability and resilience. A strengthened defense industrial base in Greece that enables the defense of NATO's southeast flank is in the United States and NATO's strategic interests and makes the United States stronger, safer, and more prosperous.

If confirmed, I would not only support these and other projects to deepen our defense ties, increase interoperability with Greek forces, and strengthen our defense industrial base through the U.S. Foreign Military Sales program, I would also seek opportunities in tandem with Ambassador Whitaker in Brussels, my esteemed Ambassadorial colleagues in capitals across the Alliance, and our Greek Ally, to showcase these successes as a model for strategic cooperation within NATO.

Question. Greece is a valued security partner in Europe, but it is important to urge them to address risks posed by Chinese influence, including risks linked to the

presence of Chinese companies in ownership and operation of the highly strategic Port of Piraeus. How can we help our partner Greece counter this threat and prevent this kind of malign influence in the future?

Answer. The United States and Greece are addressing the risks posed by the CCP together. Greece's parliament recently passed legislation establishing an investment screening mechanism to protect Greece's economy and improve the overall security environment. If confirmed, I would encourage further U.S.-Greece cooperation in Greece's implementation of its new investment screening mechanism to protect shared U.S., Greek, and NATO economic security interests.

If confirmed, I will seek to promote U.S. investment in the region, including in cooperation with the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), to provide Greece with trusted investment options. I will continue to push back on Beijing's efforts to use Chinese investment in infrastructure in the region to gain strategic influence. I will work to promote U.S. goals and counter negative influence from China.

Question. As Ambassador, how will you urge the Government of Greece to acknowledge the serious threats China poses?

Answer. Greece has shown a willingness to weigh important national security and strategic considerations for critical infrastructure projects. Greek PM Mitsotakis was one of the first European leaders to effectively ban Chinese-made telecommunications equipment from core 5G networks, a sign he's serious about addressing this threat.

Addressing challenges posed by China is a global priority for President Trump. If confirmed, I will continue to work together with Greece on these issues with a Greek government which is deeply committed to the transatlantic relationship and the promotion of our shared democratic values. I would also encourage further U.S.-Greece cooperation in Greece's implementation of its new investment screening mechanism to protect shared U.S., Greek, and NATO economic security interests.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO KIMBERLY GUILFOYLE BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

Question. While the relationship between Athens and Skopje has improved significantly since Prespa, theirs is a relationship that needs maintenance, and the United States can sometimes be a bridge. If confirmed, will you commit to working with your counterpart at Embassy Skopje to ensure U.S. interests are safeguarded, including through the completion of a gas interconnector that will rid Skopje of its dependence on Russian gas?

Answer. Yes. Greece is becoming a regional energy hub and guarantor of energy security and diversification in Southeast Europe, with major investments in natural gas infrastructure, electricity grid interconnections and upgrades, and renewable energy. Construction on the Greece-North Macedonia Interconnector began earlier in 2025 and will help diversify its energy supply away from Russian gas and creates opportunities for U.S. liquified natural gas sales. If confirmed, I would encourage the Greek government to continue efforts to further link gas and electricity lines throughout the region.

Question. Public reporting suggests that Secretary Hegseth is encouraging Greece to provide Patriot air defense systems to Ukraine. Greece also has Russian era air defense. Will you work to encourage Greece to continue providing additional support to Ukraine, including air defense?

Answer. If confirmed, I will encourage Greece to contribute further to support Ukraine and urge Greece to be a champion within Europe for President Trump's efforts to end the war.

Question. Greece is one of several NATO governments that does not recognize Kosovo's independence, despite the role NATO played in ending Serbia's assault on Kosovo in 1999. Non-recognition forestalls certain cooperation with Kosovo in the NATO context and complicates its path toward the EU, disincentivizing needed reforms. If confirmed, will you commit to advocating for Greece to recognize Kosovo to create a path to greater regional stability?

Answer. The Greek government extends some courtesies to the Kosovo representation in Athens usually reserved for delegations with official diplomatic status, and the two countries have exchanged high-level visits. Greece also backs the EU-facilitated dialogue process between Belgrade and Pristina. It supported the visa liberal-

ization of Kosovo passport holders to have free travel within the Schengen zone. Greece contributes troops to the NATO-led Kosovo Force mission. The United States was one of the first countries to recognize Kosovo's independence and, if confirmed, I would work with the State Department to encourage Greece to use its influence with both Kosovo and Serbia to advance progress toward normalization of relations, which is crucial for regional stability and economic prosperity.

Question. Do think there is utility in working in the 3+1 format of Greece, Israel, Cyprus and the U.S., and if yes, on what issues?

Answer. Yes. I believe Greece's important leadership role in the Eastern Mediterranean contributes to regional stability and promotes economic cooperation. The 3+1 is a key grouping, not only within the Eastern Mediterranean, but as a potentially critical component of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor—a strategic and prioritized initiative for the Administration. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress and colleagues in the interagency to support robust ties between the United States and Greece, Israel, and the Republic of Cyprus, with a focus on energy and security.

Question. Greece is very concerned about the perceived threat from Turkey. How do you see the tensions between Greece and Turkey?

Answer. Peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean is in the U.S. strategic interest, facilitating greater prosperity and security for the United States. The United States has long encouraged dialogue between Greece and Turkey and, if confirmed, I would continue to support engagement between these two Allies to resolve differences. Ongoing rapprochement between these two NATO Allies has significantly lowered regional tensions. If confirmed, I will work closely with Ambassador Barrack to encourage both Allies to continue to pursue dialogue and advance shared economic and security goals in the region and Alliance.

Question. Are you committed to working closely with Ambassador Barrack to support relations and resolve tensions between Greece and Türkiye?

Answer. Yes. The United States has long encouraged dialogue between the two neighbors, and, if confirmed, I will work closely with Ambassador Barrack to support and encourage strengthened relations between our two Allies. Peace and stability along NATO's southeast flank are vital to U.S. and NATO interests.

Question. Do you believe that it is important to maintain parity in arms sales to countries?

Answer. It is in the United States' interest to ensure prosperity, stability, peace, and security in the region. I support the Department's holistic approach to reviewing arms transfers on a case-by-case basis.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED
TO JENNIFER LOCKETTA BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

Question. If confirmed, what reforms would you prioritize for the Security Council?

Answer. While the United States has made important policy achievements at the U.N. Security Council, including in this administration, the reality is that the institution has not lived up to its mission or potential.

The United States will assess any proposal for changes by the metric of whether it advances American interests and how it will affect the UNSC. If confirmed, I plan to execute the President's foreign policy priorities, which include a pragmatic, common-sense approach with our international counterparts. This includes seeking areas of mutual cooperation with all P5 members, creating consensus where appropriate, and standing firm to promote the interests of the American people. I will also work to ensure our commitments to international organizations make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

Question. Do you support reform of the veto or expansion of permanent or non-permanent seats? Please explain.

Answer. It is time for us to bring the United Nations, and specifically the Security Council, back to its original purpose: the maintenance of international peace and security, including the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The United States is fortunate to have many supporters in the Security Council on a range of issues where our interests overlap.

If confirmed, I will put U.S. priorities first, working with the permanent and elected members of the Security Council to advance our shared security, political, and economic interests.

Question. How will you evaluate peacekeeping missions?

Answer. UN peacekeeping must adapt to be a more effective and efficient tool for advancing peace and security. We must carefully consider whether missions are performing effectively, improving peace and security, and aligning with U.S. interests. If confirmed, I am committed to pursuing reforms to improve the accountability, effectiveness, and efficiency of U.N. peacekeeping.

Question. Will you seek to close missions that have exceeded their mandate or that can no longer meet their original mandate?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to advancing the President's priorities to bring an end to senseless, man-made conflicts.

I am committed to evaluating all existing peacekeeping missions to ensure that they are performing effectively and advancing U.S. interests. If they are not, we will seek to adapt them or close them.

Submitted by Senator Tommy Tuberville

INTRODUCTION FOR LINDY BLANCHARD

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

- Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and other members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee:
- It's my honor to introduce all of you to Lynda Blanchard—known to friends and family as Lindy—today for her confirmation hearing to serve as President Trump's Ambassador to the UN for Food and Agriculture.
- Lindy is a native of Montgomery, Alabama, and a 1991 graduate of Auburn University, where she earned a degree in mathematics with a minor in computer science. War Eagle.
- Alabama is extremely proud of her many accomplishments.
- Lindy served as President Trump's Ambassador to Slovenia during his first administration and is now ready to serve again.
- Lindy has a proven RECORD of success and a wealth of experience in the business world.
- A few years after her graduation from Auburn, Lindy and her husband, John, started a real estate business in a small one-room office with only a folding table that they borrowed from a local church.
- This company, now known as B&M Management, has since grown into a multi-million-dollar business with properties across the Southeast.
- Lindy and John are no strangers to the American Dream—and they continue to look for ways to help others achieve it as well.
- In addition to being a successful businesswoman, Lindy brings compassion and a deep understanding of what is needed to combat global food insecurity, as this has been her top mission for more than 20 years.

- In 2004, she founded a non-profit called the 100X Development Foundation—which works to uplift children and families in poverty across the globe.
- Because of Lindy's leadership, the organization has expanded to dozen countries, helping thousands of families.
- I have no doubt that Lindy will represent us well on the world stage and look forward to seeing what she accomplishes as our next UN Ambassador for Food and Agriculture.
- Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

