

## NOMINATIONS

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TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2025

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

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. James E. Risch presiding.

Present: Senators Risch [presiding], Ricketts, McCormick, Daines, Hagerty, Barrasso, Cruz, Scott, Shaheen, Murphy, Kaine, Van Hollen, and Rosen.

Also present: Senator Blackburn.

Senator RISCH. The U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations will come to order. We have business today being a hearing on some nominees that the President has made.

As always, we welcome the public who have come in to watch in the audience. I would remind everyone we have a zero tolerance in this committee for any attempt in the audience to protest, to attempt to communicate in any way, shape, or form with members of the committee or the witnesses during the hearing, and it will be dealt with appropriately if that occurs.

What I would like to do is we have some introductions to start with, and I think what I will do is we will do the introductions, and Senator Shaheen and I will make opening statements, and then we will hear from the nominees.

We would ask you to please keep your statements to about 5 minutes. If it is longer than that we will certainly be willing to put whatever you would like in the record.

But with that, Senator Blackburn, welcome to our committee. We do not see you here very often.

### STATEMENT OF HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN, U.S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE

Senator BLACKBURN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. We are glad to see—

Senator BLACKBURN. You are right, and Senator Shaheen, it is so good to see you all and to be with you, and what a wonderful occasion to join you for today because I am here to introduce Bill White, who is one of your nominees today, and of course, he is being nominated to serve as Ambassador to Belgium.

Now, Bill's life is truly an American dream and an American success story. He was adopted at birth. He worked in his family's small business before becoming a volunteer firefighter, an EMT, a

nonprofit founder, and that was all done before he graduated from college.

At age 24 he joined the late Zachary Fisher, one of our country's greatest champions of the military and veterans, and eventually Bill led the Intrepid Museum, a notable military and maritime history museum in New York City.

Under his leadership the museum grew fivefold, and Bill raised over \$1.5 billion for wounded service members and their families. He was also instrumental in leading a bipartisan effort to raise the death benefit for fallen troops from \$6,000 to \$500,000.

After all of this Bill went on to found his own consulting firm, and he has advised clients across many sectors from private equity to public safety.

He has employed more than 1,000 Americans over his 30 year career and has remained deeply involved in community causes wherever he has lived, whether it is New York or Atlanta or Florida.

Bill brings discipline and an unshakable love of country and opportunity to every role that he takes on, and he succeeds in each of these roles.

I fully support his nomination and know that he is going to serve the American people and the President with integrity, passion, and patriotism.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator Blackburn.

We certainly appreciate you taking the time to come here and help us think these things through. I know you are really busy. You are welcome to stay, but you probably got other commitments you have got to do so—but thank you so much for being here.

I am now going to turn to Senator Hagerty. I understand you have an introduction for us.

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

Senator HAGERTY. I do, and thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member. I appreciate your holding this hearing, and congratulations to everybody that is here today.

But it is a particular honor for me to recognize and introduce a friend of mine for many years, and if I think about it, he is one of the most principled people that I know, a steadfast supporter of the President, of our U.S. interests abroad, Mr. Thomas Rose, President Trump's nominee to be our Ambassador to Poland.

Tom is an exceptional pick to represent the United States to one of our strongest European allies. That is an understatement.

Tom's qualifications are reflected in his lifetime of experience and success in public service and in journalism. As a young journalist he covered the apartheid crisis in South Africa, political changes in the Philippines, and the fall of the Berlin Wall, and Tom's documentary about the plight of Soviet Jews was nominated for an Emmy Award.

He was then trusted to hold a number of significant management roles in the media including as publisher and CEO of *The Jerusalem Post*, one of the most influential English language newspapers in the Middle East.

Tom later served as chief strategist and senior advisor in the Office of the Vice President during President Trump's first term. That is when Tom and I had the opportunity to work together, and I had a chance to see his strategic insight firsthand.

He is a patriot. He has a clear eyed understanding of America's role in the world, and I think we all should appreciate that.

Most recently Tom has co-hosted a talk show where he has demonstrated a deep understanding of global affairs, a consistent commitment to conservative principles, and an ability to deliver and clearly articulate America's interests and values to a broad audience, qualities that are essential for advancing U.S. interest and for strengthening the U.S.-Poland relationship at this critical time.

Throughout his life and career Tom has shown he can navigate complex issues with clarity, courage, and decisiveness.

Poland is one of our most vital partners in Europe. Poland is the biggest spender on defense as a portion of its GDP in NATO, and Poland serves as a critical bulwark on the alliance's eastern flank.

We need someone with Tom's talents to advance America's foreign policy in Poland, to serve as a bridge between our two governments, to advocate for our national interests, and to champion the principles that have made the U.S.-Poland relationship and partnership so robust.

Tom is exactly the right person to serve as our nation's next Ambassador in Warsaw, and I urge my colleagues on this committee to support his nomination.

Thank you.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator Hagerty.

Myself and then the Ranking Member will make some opening remarks, and then we will turn it over to you.

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

I want to thank our witnesses and their families for being here today. As always, the families play a large role when you are doing service like you are doing.

I strongly believe the President has the right to pick his team, and I know he has put a great deal of consideration into each of these nominees.

Mr. White, as you know, Belgium is a core U.S. ally in Europe and plays a critical and unique role in transatlantic relationship.

As the host of NATO headquarters and the European Union, engagement with Belgium is essential to strengthening the transatlantic relationship and protecting our collective security.

In the face of rising aggression, Belgium has been a partner in hitting Russia where it hurts by freezing its sovereign assets and using those funds to stop Putin's war machine.

I personally appreciate it as I was the author of the original freezing assets bills, and we had a struggle until we got Belgium on board, and then things really started to move.

I look forward to working with you to strengthen these efforts.

As ambassador, you will be charged with furthering this very important relationship.

Mr. Rose, you too will be charged with an important relationship. Poland is one of the United States' strongest and closest allies in

Europe and is one of the top contributors to NATO's collective defense.

Poland has taken steps to address the threat in its backyard when others were reluctant to do so, and we appreciate the Polish leadership in Europe and the alliance.

U.S. cooperation with Poland will continue to be crucial as we push back on Russia's aggression. I can tell you, and I think the Ranking Member will back me up on this, that the Poles are anxious to work with us.

We had the opportunity last week to jointly host a group of parliamentarians from Poland. It was bipartisan, and they were incredibly anxious to work with us to do what we need to do.

I look forward to hearing how you will advance U.S.-Polish relations and our shared interest.

Dr. Lamelas, Argentina and the United States maintain robust bilateral relations based on shared interests and Western democratic values. President Milei is a key partner in our hemisphere, and I hope you will take every opportunity to deepen economic and security relations with Argentina.

America is not its only interested partner. China is increasingly spreading its influence in the Western Hemisphere. We all know that.

I hope as Ambassador to Argentina that you will work with your counterparts to support practical measures which reduce China's technological and financial influence in Argentina and South America more generally.

Mr. Evans, as Under Secretary for Management you will work with Secretary Rubio and President Trump to facilitate the very important and necessary State Department reorganization.

Secretary Rubio has streamlined the bureaucracy, made the department run more efficiently, and this change could not be more sorely needed.

I also fully support the department's return to merit hiring and promotions rather than the woke system under the last Administration.

Over the past several years I have passed bills that focus on making the State Department leaner and more effective. Two of those bills, the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act, as well as the Mission in a Box Act, were never fully implemented by the previous Administration.

I am hoping you can ensure these bills will get fully implemented.

Thank you all and your families once more for your willingness to serve.

And now, Senator Shaheen, the floor is yours.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JEANNE SHAHEEN,  
RANKING MEMBER, U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good morning. Welcome to each of our nominees, to your families and friends and supporters who are here with you today.

I am going to address some concerns I have about the Bureau of Consular Affairs, even though the nominee to head that office is not on the agenda today.

But Mr. Evans, because it is part of what you will be doing I think it is important, and for each of you in—if you are approved for the post that you have been nominated for I think it is worth reporting since this will be a big issue for each of you.

For many Americans one of the most familiar functions of the State Department is the Bureau of Consular Affairs. It issues passports to Americans traveling abroad as proof of citizenship, and it processes visas for foreign nationals, ensuring the integrity of U.S. border security. It combats fraud, working with partners like Diplomatic Security in the Department of Homeland Security.

It plays a role in adoptions and in cases of parental child abduction, and it protects U.S. citizens overseas, assisting in emergencies such as arrests or hospitalizations or disasters.

It is the public face of the State Department for people around the world.

So, Mr. Evans, if confirmed you will be responsible to oversee this critical component of the State Department. I think there is no room for error here.

I can assure you all that the most calls that we get in our office have to do with the Bureau of Consular Affairs and what our constituents are looking for when they travel.

And it does not matter whether they are Republicans or Democrats. Americans do not like the long delays when they need a passport. We saw this when travel resumed after COVID. There was an outcry from constituents to improve passport turnaround times.

To the State Department's credit there have been improvements over the last few years, and I would like to hear how you plan to build on those efforts.

One of the keys to avoiding backlogs is the smooth operation of the National Passport Center and the National Visa Center. These are centers that I know something about because they are located in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

I have worked with them since I have been in the Senate and before that as Governor, and I know that one of the challenges that they face is staffing.

These centers not only need civil service and Foreign Service officers, they also rely on highly specialized contractors with security clearances who are not easy to replace once they are RIF'd.

So I hope to hear about how you plan to sustain these operations in light of recent staff reductions. State Department leadership understands the importance of Consular Affairs. That is why they made promises not to fire consular staff.

Unfortunately, those promises were broken, and consular staff have been eliminated. And what is, I believe, self-defeating about those actions is that these employees not only deliver services to Americans, they pay for themselves.

So Consular Affairs is a fee based operation. That means it generates revenue. Cutting staff who earn money for the American taxpayer I think is not only short sighted, but it is wasteful.

So, Mr. Evans, the Undersecretary for Management is not only charged with the operations of the State Department, it is also responsible for the people working on issues like diplomatic security,

training officers for deployment, and integrating AI into American diplomacy.

The success of these efforts is vital to maintaining a modern, responsive State Department that can meet the challenges of the 21st century.

So, if confirmed, I would like to hear how you intend to ensure that these missions are executed with nonpartisan, professional care that they require.

And finally, to our nominees for Ambassadors to Poland, Belgium, and Argentina, as the Chairman said, these are very important allies for the United States.

Whether it is strengthening NATO, building deterrence against Russia on Europe's eastern flank, countering China's influence in Latin America, all three of these posts carry significant responsibility.

I look forward to hearing how, if confirmed, you would work to advance American interests and deepen ties with these key allies.

Thank you all.

Mr. Chairman.

Senator Risch. Thank you, Senator Shaheen.

I think virtually every Member of Congress concurs in your statements regarding how important the visa and passport operations are. Like you say, we get lots of contact from our constituents.

So you will be hearing from us more often than you want, but we will be there to help try to make it work as best we can.

So let us start with the statements by the nominees.

Mr. Evans, why do you not go first?

**STATEMENT OF JASON EVANS, OF TEXAS, NOMINATED TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MANAGEMENT**

Mr. EVANS. Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

It is a distinct honor to be considered for the role of Under Secretary of State for Management at the U.S. Department of State.

I would like to thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their confidence in me and for the opportunity to serve in this important position.

I would also like to thank my many friends and colleagues, both here in the room today and watching online; my children and my family, who have been a source of unwavering support throughout my diplomatic career; and I especially want to thank my wife Jackie, whose love and support enables everything I do.

As a career Foreign Service officer I am deeply committed to the mission of the department and the support, safety, and security of my colleagues and their families.

The role for which I have been nominated affects every member of our work force around the globe, and if confirmed, I will work to ensure our people have what they need to do the important work of the State Department no matter their location or rank.

My priority is to ensure that every person we send overseas is protected from harm, from our Ambassadors to the youngest children of our colleagues and everyone in between.

By doing so we enable our officials to fulfill the department's mission and produce positive results for the American people.

The Under Secretary of Management leads the M family, which encompasses 13 bureaus and offices within the department, ranging from budget to IT to security and physical assets, to H.R. and procurement, and is directly responsible for ensuring the safety and security of our work force.

The Bureau of Diplomatic Security holds the mandate for physical security at our overseas missions and residences as well as for our staff and their families.

Our Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations is tasked with maintaining existing facilities and constructing new, safe, and secure facilities for our overseas operations, and the Bureau of Medical Services is dedicated to maintaining the mental and physical health of our personnel and their families.

There is no greater responsibility than safeguarding those who serve our nation abroad, and I am committed to upholding this duty with the utmost dedication.

I will also work to uphold our "America First" foreign policy. Through the Bureau of Consular Affairs the department supports the international travel of American citizens through our domestic passport offices as well as assisting American citizens overseas through our embassies and consulates.

CA is also the front lines of facilitating legitimate travel to the United States for foreign citizens while identifying and stopping those who might threaten our national security or public safety.

As Secretary Rubio said during his May budget hearings, we are going to prioritize people that come into our country on the basis of what is in the interest of this country.

Striking this delicate balance between facilitating legitimate travel and protecting Americans is a challenge. If confirmed as Under Secretary for Management I will ensure CA has the personnel and resources needed to effectively fulfill its missions in these critical areas.

And the Secretary's efforts to realign resources in the department are essential for enhancing our operational efficiency, shifting our national security priorities so that we are safer, stronger, and more prosperous, and delivering on the "America First" foreign policy the President and Secretary have outlined.

Reducing duplicative and redundant functions, holding the department's regional and functional bureaus accountable, and encouraging ambitious and innovative thinking in the spirit of cost savings, efficiency, and Department morale are key outcomes of this effort.

We must also continue to evaluate how we do business in our embassies and consulates overseas. When looking at our overseas presence we need to answer three basic questions to ensure we are making the best use of the resources and personnel entrusted to us.

The first question, is the current structure of our overseas operations as efficient as it could be; number two, do we have the correct people doing the correct things at our embassies and consulates; and number three, is everything we do here in Washington focused on supporting our personnel overseas and ensuring reciprocal treatment of our personnel and their families.

Additionally, we need to take a closer look on how we evaluate and assign our Foreign Service officers to ensure we are promoting the right people based solely on merit and that we have the right people in the right places.

These longer term efforts will reshape the Foreign Service and improve the efficiency and efficacy of our diplomatic corps.

It is a great honor to serve our country as a diplomat, and if confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee and the dedicated professionals of the Department of State to achieve these goals.

I want to thank the committee for considering my nomination, and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

#### NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

*Question.* Do you agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from the Department of State available to the Committee and designated staff when invited?

*Answer.* I welcome cooperation with the Committee and will work with Department leadership to make officials available to the Committee.

*Question.* Do you commit to keep this Committee fully and currently informed about the activities under your purview?

*Answer.* I am committed to keeping the Committee fully and currently informed about the activities under my purview in coordination with the Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

*Question.* Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, not just providing notification after the fact?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I am committed to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, in coordination with the Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

*Question.* Do you commit to promptly responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I am committed to promptly responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff, in coordination with the Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Evans follows:]

#### Prepared Statement of Jason Evans

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. It is a distinct honor to be considered for the role of Under Secretary of State for Management at the U.S. Department of State. I would like to thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their confidence in me and for the opportunity to serve in this important position.

I would also like to thank my many friends and colleagues both here in the room today and watching online, and my children and family, who have been a source of unwavering support throughout my diplomatic career. I especially want to thank my wife, Jackie, whose love and support enables everything I do.

As a career Foreign Service Officer, I am deeply committed to the mission of the Department and the support, safety, and security of my colleagues and their families. The role for which I have been nominated affects every member of our workforce around the globe, and, if confirmed, I will work to ensure our people have what they need to do the important work of the State Department, no matter their location or rank.

My priority is to ensure that every person we send overseas is protected from harm, from our Ambassadors to the youngest children of our colleagues and everyone in between. By doing so, we enable our officials to fulfill the Department's mission and produce positive results for the American people.

The Under Secretary for Management leads the "M Family," which encompasses 13 bureaus and offices within the Department, ranging from budget to IT to security and physical assets to H.R. and procurement, and is directly responsible for ensur-

ing the safety and security of our workforce. The Bureau of Diplomatic Security holds the mandate for physical security at our overseas missions and residences, as well as for our staff and their families. Our Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations is tasked with maintaining existing facilities and constructing new, safe, and secure facilities for our overseas operations. And the Bureau of Medical Services is dedicated to maintaining the mental and physical health of our personnel and their families. There is no greater responsibility than safeguarding those who serve our nation abroad, and I am committed to upholding this duty with the utmost dedication.

I will also work to uphold our America First Foreign Policy. Through the Bureau of Consular Affairs—or CA, as we call it—the Department supports the international travel of American citizens through our domestic passport offices, as well as assisting American citizens overseas through our Embassies and Consulates. CA also is on the front lines of facilitating legitimate travel to the United States for foreign citizens, while identifying and stopping those who might threaten our national security or public safety. As Secretary Rubio said during his May budget hearings, “We are going to prioritize people that come into our country on the basis of what’s in the interests of this country.” Striking this delicate balance between facilitating legitimate travel and protecting Americans is a challenge. If confirmed as Under Secretary for Management, I will ensure CA has the personnel and resources needed to effectively fulfill its missions in these critical areas.

And the Secretary’s efforts to realign resources across the Department are essential for enhancing our operational efficiency; shifting our national security priorities so that we are safer, stronger, and more prosperous; and delivering on the America First Foreign Policy the President and Secretary have outlined. Reducing duplicative and redundant functions, holding the Department’s regional and functional bureaus accountable, and encouraging ambitious and innovative thinking in the spirit of cost savings, efficiency, and Department morale are key outcomes from this effort.

We must also continually evaluate how we do business in our embassies and consulates overseas. When looking at our overseas presence, we need to answer three basic questions to ensure we are making the best use of the resources and personnel entrusted to us:

1. Is the current structure of our overseas operation as efficient as it could be?
2. Do we have the correct people doing the correct things at our Embassies and Consulates?
3. Is everything we do here in Washington focused on supporting our personnel overseas and ensuring reciprocal treatment of our personnel and their families?

Additionally, we need to take a closer look at how we evaluate and assign our foreign service officers to ensure we are promoting the right people based solely on merit and that we have the right people in the right places. These longer-term efforts will reshape the Foreign Service and improve the efficacy of our diplomatic corps.

It is a great honor to serve our country as a diplomat, and, if confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee and the dedicated professionals at the Department of State to achieve these goals.

I want to thank the Committee for considering my nomination and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Senator RISC. Thank you, Mr. Evans. Appreciate that.

Mr. Rose.

**STATEMENT OF THOMAS ROSE, OF FLORIDA, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND**

Mr. ROSE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Madam Ranking Member, and distinguished members of this committee.

Thank you, Senator Hagerty, for that kind introduction. Your extraordinary service as American Ambassador to Japan historically and extraordinarily enhanced our Indo-Pacific relationship. I thank you. The President thanks you. Our diplomatic services’ loss is the Senate’s gain.

My name is Tom Rose, and I am honored to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to serve as Ambassador to the Republic of Poland.

I am deeply humbled and profoundly grateful to the President for the trust he has placed in me to advance America's interests in Poland, and I thank this committee for its consideration of my nomination.

I am mindful of the heavy responsibility this nomination carries. I am not a career diplomat, but I have spent a lifetime defending American values and interests both here at home and around the world.

If honored with your support I will proudly bring those convictions to Warsaw on behalf of President Trump and the American people.

The relationship between the United States and Poland is built on shared values—liberty, sovereignty, and the unbreakable bonds of faith, family, and freedom.

From the Polish patriots who fought alongside our Founding Fathers to the untold millions of Polish Americans who have enriched every aspect of American life, our alliance is forged in centuries of mutual respect.

No American admires Poland's proud and heroic history more keenly than President Donald Trump. From outlasting a murderous Nazi occupation only to suffer four decades of stifling communist oppression to gloriously reclaiming her long lost freedom, President Trump deeply honors Poland's devotion to faith, family, and freedom, and so do I.

But Poland is not just another American ally. She is more. She is much more. Poland is family, standing not merely at the crossroads of Europe and the guardian of NATO's eastern flank, she is leading Europe's growing resolve to confront aggression.

President Trump believes the mission of every American ambassador is straightforward but simple—to promote the safety, security, and prosperity of the American people, first, last, and always.

If confirmed, I will unapologetically advance President Trump's demand for policies that protect and promote American interests, from insisting upon free, fair, and reciprocal treatment for our businesses and our consumers to more NATO burden sharing, to helping Poland secure its energy future by making available more of the increasingly abundant resources that the President and his team are making available, and I will vigorously counter any challenges that threaten those interests.

If confirmed, I will approach this assignment with deep respect for Poland's sovereignty and the freely exercised decisions of her people, but I will do so with no ambiguity about President Trump's priorities.

I will be clear eyed about our challenges and firm in my resolve because as President Trump's bold leadership repeatedly demonstrates that is how alliances succeed, and that is how peace is preserved.

I want to close by thanking a towering champion of freedom and an unequalled supporter of our great President, my dear friend Dr. Miriam Adelson, without whose backing I would not be here today.

Thank you again, Senators, for the opportunity to appear before you. I welcome your questions, your counsel, and most importantly, your guidance.

Thank you.

#### NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

*Question.* Do you agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from the Department of State available to the Committee and designated staff when invited?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I agree to appear before this Committee and make myself available to the Committee and designated staff.

*Question.* Do you commit to keep this Committee fully and currently informed about the activities under your purview?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I commit to keeping this Committee fully informed about the activities under my purview.

*Question.* Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, not just providing notification after the fact?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I will engage in meaningful consultation with the relevant congressional committees.

*Question.* Do you commit to promptly responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I commit to promptly responding to requests for briefings and information from the Committee and its designated staff.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Rose follows:]

#### Prepared Statement of Thomas Rose

Mr. Chairman, Madame Ranking Member, and distinguished Members of this Committee:

Thank you Senator Hagerty for that kind introduction. My name is Tom Rose, and I am honored to appear before you as President Trump's nominee to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Poland. I am deeply humbled and profoundly grateful to President Trump for the trust he has placed in me to advance American interests in Poland, and I thank this committee for considering my nomination.

I'm mindful of the heavy responsibility this nomination carries. I'm not a career diplomat, but I have spent a lifetime defending American values and interests. If honored with the support of this committee and the full Senate to whom you will report, I'll proudly bring those convictions to Warsaw on behalf of President Trump and the American people.

The relationship between the U.S. and Poland is built on shared ideals—liberty, sovereignty, and the unbreakable bonds of family, faith and freedom. From the Polish patriots who fought with our Founding Fathers, to the untold millions of Polish-Americans who have enriched every corner of American life, our alliance is forged in centuries of mutual respect.

No American admires Poland's proud and heroic history more keenly than President Donald Trump; from steadfastly resisting an unimaginably horrific Nazi occupation and four decades of stifling communist oppression, to reclaiming freedom through their indomitable courage. President Trump deeply honors Poland's devotion to faith, family, and freedom, and so do I!

But Poland is more than just another ally—she's family, a proud, thriving and vigorous democratic partner in a rapidly changing world. Poland stands not merely at the crossroads of Europe and guardian of NATO's eastern flank; Poland leads Europe's growing resolve to confront aggression.

President Trump believes the mission of every American ambassador is straightforward but simple; to promote the safety, security and prosperity of the American people, first, last, and always!

If confirmed, I will unapologetically advance President Trump's demand for policies that protect, and promote America's interests—from insuring fair, free and reciprocal treatment for our businesses and consumers, to greater NATO burden-sharing, to providing more of our abundant energy resources to help secure Poland's future, to countering any challenges that might threaten those interests.

I will proudly champion the enduring ties of history, family and faith that bind our two great nations, and ensure that President Trump's leadership is clearly understood in Warsaw.

If confirmed, I will approach this assignment with profound respect for Poland's sovereignty and the freely exercised decisions of her democratic people, but without any ambiguity about President Trump's priorities. I will be clear-eyed about our challenges and firm in my purpose, because as President Trump's valiant actions have yet again demonstrated; this is how alliances succeed, and how peace is preserved.

I want to close by thanking a towering champion of freedom and an unequalled backer of our great President; my dear friend Dr. Miriam Adelson, without whose support I would not be here today.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. I welcome your questions, your counsel and your guidance. Thank you.

Senator Risch. Thank you, Mr. Rose.

Mr. White.

**STATEMENT OF WILLIAM WHITE, OF NEW YORK, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

Mr. WHITE. Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, Senators Hagerty, McCormick, and Kaine, and the distinguished members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, thank you for this great honor and opportunity to appear before you today as President Donald Trump's nominee for the United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium. It is truly an honor to be selected by President Trump, a leader I have known for over 30 years from our days in New York City, literally when he helped me save the Veterans Day Parade when I was 24 years old. Wrote a check for a million dollars. The vets did not have to pay for their own parade anymore, and the rest was history.

I am so grateful to President Trump and our great First Lady Mrs. Melania Trump. I want to first thank God and ask for his blessings over President Trump and all of you here today for the great work you do for our country.

As a businessman, philanthropist, and a nationally respected advocate for our nation's fallen heroes, as Senator Blackburn said, I will run through it—we raised \$1.5 billion from 700,000 Americans to support our nation's fallen heroes, catastrophically wounded and severely burned service members and their families.

We took the Intrepid from over 100,000 visitors a year to a million visitors a year, and I raised \$200 million for that renovation. Now the Intrepid is the top tourist attraction in New York City.

Following my career at the Intrepid, I started Constellations Group where I have raised over \$6 billion for private equity and other startup capital ventures.

But most importantly, as a CEO I have had the great honor of supervising over 1,000 U.S. citizens as wonderful employees of our team, and I have been truly blessed with that experience.

I will bring the same tenacity and dedication to this prestigious role. None of this would be possible without my husband Bryan Eure sitting behind me. We have been together 24 years. That is a thing.

His parents, Joe and Donna Eure, my sister-in-law and brother-in-law Adrienne and Todd Henningsen are here with their beautiful children. My 14 year old niece Alexis—excuse me, Alexa—Alexis Wilkins is there and my 16 year old nephew Ridge.

I had the great opportunity to have the most amazing parents, Patricia and Bill White, but I have got something good for you here, the best parents I could have ever had. But at age 54—I am 58—I met my biological mother for the first time thanks to 23AndMe and Ancestry.com, even though there are some things about that.

Her name is Mary Eileen Mooney. She is from Vermont. She is one of my heroes, and she is sitting next to my husband today. Technology is a great thing sometimes.

Belgium is a vital U.S. ally and partner. Our countries have had great long standing ties. Belgium is the host country, as the chairman said, of NATO's headquarters and home of approximately 800 brave U.S. service members and their families, many of them assigned to NATO duties.

The United States liberated Belgium twice, in World War I and World War II. In 2024 Belgium honored the 80th anniversary of the sacrifices of thousands of our U.S. veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge, the bloodiest of the war.

If confirmed, I promise to continue to strengthen these important historical ties. I have spent much time in Belgium traveling to Iraq and Afghanistan with our NATO commanders to meet, entertain, and visit with our troops.

I have many long standing relationships and new ones. If confirmed by this austere body I look forward to reengaging with these great Belgium patriots who I know are anxious to partner with the United States of America.

Belgium is also the seat of the European Union and its parliament and executive management. Our trade relationship with Belgium is valued at \$74.8 billion, give or take, annually, and the United States has a goods trade surplus with Belgium.

Belgium is our twentieth largest trading partner in goods, and 500 Belgium companies employ over 80,000 U.S. workers. The port of Antwerp and Bruges alone moves 17 million metric tons of U.S. goods.

Total American exports to Belgium were about \$35 billion including significant volumes of U.S. liquefied natural gas.

If confirmed, I will advance the President—excuse me, I will advance President Trump's "America First" agenda and the goals of many of the members of this committee that you have shared with me about increasing energy production into Belgium.

If confirmed, I will have three main lines of effort. First, we will advance the President's trade agenda. We will promote U.S. export opportunities in Belgium with the focus of high tech sectors like semiconductors and biotechnology.

We will work hand in glove with the Belgians to encourage more investments in the United States, which I hope will lead to a lot more American jobs.

Second, Belgium plans to accelerate its defense spending to reach NATO's 5 percent of GDP goal set by President Trump at The Hague. Congratulations on that.

Belgium leaders, including the new Prime Minister Bart De Wever, have acknowledged that Belgium will do more. From all accounts we will have a great partner in Prime Minister De Wever and his well formed Arizona Coalition.

That is the name of their government. Those four parties have the colors of the Arizona flag. I was thinking there might be a Senator from Arizona to compliment about that, but we will work very well with the Prime Minister.

His Majesty King Philippe and Her Majesty Queen Mathilde have become friends of President Trump. He met them at the opening of Notre Dame and had dinner with them and was very impressed with them, and he hopes to enhance that relationship.

I believe the Belgium Ambassador to the United States, of the Honorable Frederic Bernard, is sitting with us here today so I appreciate his presence.

Third, we will strengthen law enforcement cooperation to counter illegal immigration, illicit narcotics, and transnational organized crime. Belgium is facing growing threats from organized crime seeking to use it as a drug transit hub, as are the Chinese.

I understand our law enforcement cooperation with Belgium is great, but more can be done and must be done to safeguard the safety of the United States citizens abroad and in Belgium.

The safety of our American citizens will be our overarching priority. Some 1 million Americans visit Belgium every year for work, tourism, or study. If confirmed, I will make sure the embassy does everything possible to safeguard their well being of our citizens.

I recognize the bilateral mission in Brussels provides essential services for our Tri-Mission. If confirmed, I commit to leading those hard charging, hard working officers at the U.S. Embassy for Belgium, who I think are listening, for the EU and NATO in our Tri-Mission goal, and they are indispensable, and we look forward to working with them, if confirmed.

Together we will deliver results for the American people. If confirmed, may I say that Bryan and I are very much looking forward to meeting and getting to know the great Belgian people.

Yesterday was their Fourth of July, and we wish all of the Belgians the best. We look forward to collaborating and forging the strongest of ties with Prime Minister Bart De Wever, and we also welcome the Senators on this committee and in the Senate to come visit.

We hope that we will accomplish great things together with your presence in Belgium. It is an honor to sit on this panel with my good friends Dr. Peter Lamelas, Tom Rose, and Jason Evans. They will do a great job for our country.

In closing, may I say it will be the honor of a lifetime to serve the United States and President Trump. I cannot wait to get things done on behalf of our great President, you all, and the American people, if confirmed.

Thank you, and I welcome your questions.

#### NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

*Question.* Do you agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from the Department of State available to the Committee and designated staff when invited?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed as Ambassador to Belgium, I commit to appear before this Committee when invited.

*Question.* Do you commit to keep this Committee fully and currently informed about the activities under your purview?

Answer. Yes, I commit to keeping the Committee fully and promptly informed about all activities under my purview.

*Question.* Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, not just providing notification after the fact?

Answer. Yes, I commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, if confirmed, and as appropriate.

*Question.* Do you commit to promptly responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff?

Answer. Yes, I commit to responding swiftly to requests for briefing and informing the Committee and its designated staff.

[The prepared statement of Mr. White follows:]

#### **Prepared Statement of William White**

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and Distinguished Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Donald J. Trump's nominee for The United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium.

It is truly an honor to be selected by President Trump, a leader I've known for over 30 years—from our days in New York when he helped us to save The Veterans Day Parade. I am grateful to President Trump and our great First Lady Melania Trump.

I want to thank God and ask for blessings over President Trump, our Country, and all of you.

As a businessman, philanthropist, and a nationally respected advocate for our nation's fallen, catastrophically wounded, and severely burned servicemembers and their families, I've led efforts like the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund & raised over \$1.5 billion since 2003 to support them. I served as the president of the Intrepid Museum in New York City for 20 years, taking one of the country's top tourist attractions out of bankruptcy from 100,000 to over 1 million visitors per year and raised almost \$200 million for its renovation. Following my career at the Intrepid I started Constellations Group where I raised over \$6 billion for private equity, real estate investment, & startup capital. As a CEO I have supervised over 1000 employees and have been truly blessed with my educational work with our nation's youth.

I will bring that same tenacity and dedication to this prestigious role.

None of this would be possible without my husband, Bryan Eure. His parents, Joe and Donna Eure, my sister-in-law and brother-in-law Adrienne & Todd Henningsen, our 14-year-old nephew, Ridge, and 16-year-old niece, Alexa Henningsen, are all here today. I had extraordinary parents Patricia and Bill White—the best parents I could have ever had. At age 54, I met my biological mother for the first time—Mary Eileen Mooney. She is one of my heroes and joins me here today from Vermont.

Belgium is a vital U.S. ally and partner. Our Countries have great long-standing ties. Belgium is the host country of NATO's HQ and home to approximately 800 U.S. service members, many of them assigned to NATO related entities. The United States liberated Belgium in both World Wars. In 2024, Belgium honored the 80th Anniversary of the sacrifices of thousands of U.S. veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. If confirmed, I promise to continue to strengthen these important historical ties.

I have spent much time in Belgium traveling to Iraq and Afghanistan with our NATO commanders to meet, entertain and visit with our troops. I have many long-standing and many new relationships there. If confirmed look forward to re engaging with these great Belgian Patriots who I know are anxious to partner with the USA.

Belgium is also the seat of the European Union & its Parliament and executive management.

Our trade relationship with Belgium is valued at \$74.8 billion annually, and the United States has a goods trade surplus with Belgium. Belgium is our 20th largest trading partner in goods, and 500 Belgian companies employ over 75,000 U.S. workers. The Port of Antwerp-Bruges alone moves 17 million metric tons of U.S. goods.

Total American exports to Belgium were about \$341.52 billion last year, including significant volumes of U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG).

If confirmed, I'll advance President Trump's America First agenda through three main lines of effort.

First, we will advance the President's trade agenda—We will promote U.S. export opportunities to Belgium, with a focus in high-tech sectors like semiconductors and biotechnology. We will work hand in glove with the Belgians to encourage more investments in the United States, leading to more American jobs.

Second, Belgium plans to accelerate its defense spending to reach NATO's 5 percent of GDP goal set by our President. Belgian leaders, including Prime Minister De Wever, have acknowledged that Belgium will do more. From all accounts we will have a great partner in Prime Minister De Wever and his well-formed Arizona Coalition.

Third, we will strengthen law enforcement cooperation to counter illegal immigration, illicit narcotics, and transnational organized crime. Belgium is facing growing threats from organized crime seeking to use it as a drug transit hub. I understand our law enforcement cooperation with Belgium is positive, but more can and must be done to safeguard the citizens of the United States and Belgium.

The safety of Americans will be our overarching priority. Some one million Americans visit Belgium every year for work, tourism, or study. If confirmed, I will make sure the embassy does everything possible to safeguard the well being of our citizens.

I recognize the bilateral Mission in Brussels provides essential services for our Tri-Mission. If confirmed, I commit to lead the hardworking and patriotic officers at the U.S. Embassy for Belgium, for EU and NATO in the U.S. Tri-Mission, including the indispensable local staff. Together, we will deliver results for the American people.

In closing, it will be the honor of a lifetime to serve the United States of America with dedication and integrity. I can't wait to get things done on behalf of President Trump and the American people, if confirmed. I very much welcome your questions.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Mr. White.

Mr. WHITE. Thank you, sir.

Dr. Lamelas, you are up.

**STATEMENT OF DR. PETER LAMELAS, OF FLORIDA, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC**

Dr. LAMELAS. Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as nominee for the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Argentina.

I am grateful to President Trump for his trust and Secretary Rubio for his support in granting me the privilege to serve our nation.

Senator Scott is not here, but he will be coming later to introduce me. I want to thank him for his introduction in advance and for his friendship. He is truly a role model to me. I have known him for over 20 years.

Before I proceed, I would like to recognize and thank my wife of 35 years, Stephanie Lamelas and my mother Mercedes Lamelas, both whose unwavering support is my foundation and are here with me today.

My hero, my father, Pedro Lamelas, who is watching us from heaven; my brothers, cardiac surgeon Dr. Joseph Lamelas and Robert Lamelas, as well as the rest of my family and friends watching from home.

I stand before you today Cuban by birth, American by the grace of God. The day we fled Cuba and legally immigrated to the United States on a Red Cross boat the communists took our few remaining

possessions. They spit on us. They called us gusanos—gusanos or worms, worms, traitors to the revolution.

We left with little more than the clothes on our backs but arrived with hope and determination. We experienced a stark contrast between socialist oppression, communism, and freedom and liberty.

My parents worked tirelessly. I learned the value of hard work in all our family businesses, from a delicatessen in New York City to a restaurant and later a convenience store gas station in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Driven by these experiences, I pursued a career in business and a master's degree—a career in medicine and a master's degree in business. I held key leadership positions on the State of Florida Board of Medicine and served on the town commission of Manalapan, Florida.

I was honored to be appointed by President Trump to the Department of Justice Public Safety Medal of Valor board, and proud to be a lifelong philanthropist.

As an emergency physician, medical director, and an entrepreneur, I founded and was CEO of what became Florida's largest urgent care company, delivering quality, cost effective care, employing thousands, caring for over a million patients a year and achieving the American dream.

Managing and growing my company from the ground up required skills, leadership skills, crisis management and negotiation skills, as well as considerable diplomacy, all skills transferable to leading a U.S. Embassy.

The United States and Argentina share close ties—economic, political, and cultural ties. Argentina is a key player in the Western Hemisphere, and our relationship is vital to regional stability.

If confirmed, I will prioritize America first while working to align both Argentina's and U.S. interests. A strong, stable, and prosperous Argentina benefits not just its own citizens but also enhances regional, economic, and political stability.

I will work to assist and create opportunities for American business, ensure a level playing field, and promote economic policies that foster fair, reciprocal trade and investment.

Cooperating on security issues, fighting corruption, and fostering a climate that is favorable for U.S. business investment is critical.

If confirmed, I stand firm against the malign influence of adversarial powers in the region whether bad actors or authoritarian regimes like Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, China, Iran, and others seeking to undermine democratic values.

I believe our U.S.-Argentina relationship can and will serve as a shining example to the rest of Latin America. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that Argentina's resources, its energy and critical minerals, can benefit both of our nations.

The U.S. wants to be Argentina's partner of choice as it reopens to global markets, so it is in our strategic interest to make sure we lower trade barriers, secure partnerships that ensure a fair, open, and transparent marketplace.

If confirmed, I will work to deepen diplomatic engagement, promote policies that reinforce democracy and our shared Western values. I will work to strengthen regional security, law enforcement

cooperation, and intelligence sharing to combat narcotics and transnational crimes.

Finally, the safety and security of American citizens abroad is fundamental. I will make every measure to ensure that U.S. citizens receive the highest level of protection, support, and service from our embassy and that our hard working embassy staff are acknowledged and supported.

I was honored when President Trump asked me to work with his friend President Javier Milei and the Argentine people to build an even stronger relationship between our two countries. So I am confident that together the United States and Argentina will achieve greatness like never before.

I also recognize the critical role that this committee plays in shaping U.S. foreign policy. If confirmed, I pledge to perform my duties with the guidance and oversight of this committee to ensure the United States policy in Argentina aligns with the vision laid out by President Trump and Secretary Rubio.

The United States and Argentina stand at an important moment in history. The world is watching. Our allies look to us for leadership.

Our adversaries test our resolve. I stand firm in representing the United States with integrity, determination, and an unwavering commitment to American values.

God bless Argentina and God bless America.

#### NOMINEE COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

*Question.* Do you agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from the Department of State available to the Committee and designated staff when invited?

*Answer.* Yes, I agree to appear before this Committee and make officials from the Department of State available to the Committee and designated staff when invited.

*Question.* Do you commit to keep this Committee fully and currently informed about the activities under your purview?

*Answer.* Yes, I am fully committed to keeping the Committee informed in a timely and comprehensive manner regarding activities under my purview.

*Question.* Do you commit to engaging in meaningful consultation while policies are being developed, not just providing notification after the fact?

*Answer.* Yes, I am committed to engaging in meaningful consultation with the Committee during the policy development process, ensuring collaboration and transparency not just providing notification after decisions have been made.

*Question.* Do you commit to promptly responding to requests for briefings and information requested by the Committee and its designated staff?

*Answer.* Yes, I am fully committed to responding promptly to all requests for briefings and information from the Committee and its designated staff.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Lamelas follows:]

#### **Prepared Statement of Peter Lamelas**

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as the nominee for United States Ambassador to the Republic of Argentina.

I am deeply grateful to President Trump for his trust and Secretary Rubio for his support in granting me this privilege. Senator Scott, thank you for your introduction and friendship—you are truly a role model.

Before proceeding, I would like to recognize my wife of 35 years, Stephanie, and my mother, Mercedes Lamelas, whose unwavering support has been my foundation. My father, Pedro Lamelas, my hero, is watching from heaven. I also acknowledge

my brothers, Dr. Joseph Lamelas, a leading cardiac surgeon, and Robert Lamelas, along with the rest of my family and friends watching from home.

I stand before you today as someone who is “Cuban by birth, American by the grace of God.” When my family fled Cuba and legally immigrated to the United States on a Red Cross boat, the communist regime took our few remaining possessions, spat on us, and called us “gusanos” or “worms”—traitors to the revolution. We left with little more than the clothes on our backs but arrived with hope and determination. We immediately experienced the stark contrast between socialist oppression and the freedom and liberty of the United States.

I learned the value of hard work from my parents, who tirelessly ran family businesses ranging from a New York City delicatessen to a restaurant and later a convenience store and gas station in West Palm Beach, Florida. Inspired by their sacrifice and determination, I pursued a career in medicine and later earned a master’s degree in business administration. Since then, I have held key leadership positions, including serving on the State of Florida Board of Medicine and the Town Commission of Manalapan, Florida.

In 2021, I was honored to be appointed by President Trump to the Department of Justice Public Safety Medal of Valor Board. I am also proud to be a lifelong philanthropist.

As an emergency physician, medical director, and entrepreneur, I founded and led Florida’s largest urgent care company, delivering quality, cost-effective care to over a million patients annually, employing thousands, and achieving the American dream. Managing and growing my company required leadership, crisis management, negotiation, and diplomacy—all skills transferable to leading a U.S. Embassy.

The United States and Argentina share close economic, political, and cultural ties. Argentina is a key partner in the Western Hemisphere, and our relationship is vital to regional stability.

If confirmed, I will prioritize an “America First” approach and work to align Argentina’s interests with our own. A strong, stable, and prosperous Argentina benefits not only its citizens but also enhances regional economic and political stability. I will work to create opportunities for American businesses, ensure a level playing field, and promote economic policies that foster free, fair, and reciprocal trade and investment. Cooperation on security issues, fighting corruption, and fostering a climate favorable for U.S. business and investment are critical.

If confirmed, I will stand firm against the malign influence of adversarial powers in the region, including authoritarian regimes like Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, China, Iran, and others that seek to undermine regional stability, security, and liberty.

I believe the U.S.-Argentina relationship can serve as a shining example to the rest of Latin America. Argentina’s resources, including energy and critical minerals, can benefit both nations. The U.S. wants to be Argentina’s “partner of choice” as it reopens to global markets. It is in our strategic interest to lower trade barriers and secure partnerships that advance a fair, open, and transparent marketplace.

If confirmed, I will work to deepen diplomatic engagement and promote policies that reinforce security. Strengthening law enforcement cooperation and intelligence sharing to combat narcotics and transnational crimes will be a priority.

The safety and security of American citizens abroad is fundamental. I will take every measure to ensure U.S. citizens receive the highest level of protection, support, and service from our embassy. I will also ensure that our hardworking embassy staff are always acknowledged and supported.

I was honored when President Trump personally asked me to work with his friend, President Javier Milei, and the Argentine people to build an even stronger relationship between our two countries. Together, I am confident that the United States and Argentina will achieve greatness like never before.

I also recognize the critical role this committee plays in shaping U.S. foreign policy. If confirmed, I pledge to perform my duties with the guidance and oversight of this committee to ensure that U.S. policy in Argentina aligns with the vision laid out by President Trump and Secretary Rubio.

The United States and Argentina stand at a critical moment in history. The world is watching. Our allies look to us for leadership, and our adversaries test our resolve. I will stand firm in representing the United States with integrity, determination, and an unwavering commitment to American values.

Thank you for your time and consideration. God Bless America and God Bless Argentina!

Senator RISC. Well, thank you very much. I appreciate your thoughts there.

We are now going to move to a round of questions, and Senator Scott said he would be back to say some kind words about you, so we will give him the floor when he gets here.

Mr. White, I want to start with you. One of the touchiest subjects we have had with our good friends in Europe has been the commitment to the defense spending required under the agreement that all of us made and which some of us understood to spend, first of all, 2 percent of their GDP on defense every year.

Belgium is not there. They are one of the few. You know, when Trump first took office there were only three and after he turned the screws to them now we are up to just a handful that are not.

Belgium still is not there, although they are supposed to get there this year. However, while they have been doing that, of course, they had the most recent meeting where everyone agreed that we would all go to 5 percent for obvious reasons, with the defense of Europe being undertaken a lot more by Europe than it has in the past with the urging of President Trump, and which, interestingly enough, there is not a lot of pushback on.

Most of them will recognize that we have done way more than our fair share. So we are not getting that much pushback on the 5 percent, and everybody agreed to it.

Tell me how you will delicately approach this matter with the Belgians.

Mr. WHITE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for all of your efforts.

If I may also say it is just a compliment to you and your management style of this austere committee how you and Senator Shaheen work together and your staffs work together.

It has been a great pleasure to be working with all of them, and I just wanted to compliment you on your fantastic management style.

With regard to the 5 percent standard, they are currently spending about \$7 billion to \$8 billion. They have to jump up quite a bit to get to 5 percent.

But the way the 5 percent splits, which is 2.5 percent for defense spending and 1.5 percent for infrastructure, there are many projects underway in Belgium that would qualify as dual use for the 1.5 percent. So that is proceeding.

And I do have some good news before we even get there, if confirmed by you all. We graciously hope for that, and thank you for that in advance.

The prime minister has stated that he is going to be buying \$1 billion new of F-35s, so this news has been transmitted to Matt Whitaker, who is doing a great job. Matt Whitaker is a very dear friend of mine.

We have known each other for many years. He and his wife Lindsay are good friends with Bryan and I. So we are excited to work together with Matt to help Belgium exceed to their goals.

But the prime minister is committed to it, unlike the last prime minister may not have been, and I think we will have a great partner there, and I promise you that we will be monitoring that and I know NATO is monitoring that.

Also Andy Puzder—thank you for confirming him out of the committee. He is a great guy, a smart economist. We will be working

as the troika of American freedom in Belgium together on all these projects. I promise you that.

Senator RISCH. That is great. Good to hear on the F-35s. You know, we are always proud to sell the F-35s.

Mr. WHITE. Yes, sir.

Senator RISCH. And everybody wants them and especially our allies, and it is the best fighter aircraft in the world.

Mr. Evans, you have got a lot of experience with the State Department, and one of the things that we have looked at for some time on this committee is the way that performance evaluations in the civil and Foreign Service have taken place and it needs reform. Would you agree with that?

Mr. EVANS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the question.

Yes, I would agree it does need reform, and that is something that I do intend to look at if confirmed.

Senator RISCH. You really cannot properly evaluate promotions or transfers or appropriate place for people to serve without a good—some type of review, and do you have any—we have long wanted to see this.

Do you have any specific thoughts on that? I realize you are not on the job yet but it is something we are going to be pushing you on when you do get on the job.

Mr. EVANS. Thank you, Senator. I do have some specific thoughts on that. I think we need to take a whole of candidate approach. We need to look at people from all sides.

We do not just need to base our evaluations on whether or not someone can write a one page statement of the work they have done for an entire year. I think we need to expand that. We need to make it a much more in depth look at what people have done and how it has impacted the policies.

Senator RISCH. Well, that is a good start. Certainly, it needs more than what it has got, so we appreciate your efforts in that regard. All of us are big fans here of the State Department.

I mean, it is the soft power that helps the United States maintain its standing in the world and does great things. So you will be part of that and part of the management team. Secretary Rubio has really put an outstanding team together, and we are glad to see you join that.

Senator Kaine, would you care to—

Senator KAINE. Thank you. I guess I am leaping ahead of Senator Shaheen as we wait for her to come back.

Senator RISCH. I guess you are.

She will not be happy, but I will take care of it for you.

Senator KAINE. Congratulations to all the nominees.

I will start with Mr. White.

You know, one of the issues that we grapple with in the committee is sort of judgment and ability to be a diplomat, and we always look at folks' social media accounts. So I want to ask you about some.

Apparently, it looks to be in July 2024 you posted, "It is high time now to legitimately prosecute Georgia Secretary of State and Governor Kemp." That was about exactly a year ago.

About 2 weeks later, August 8, 2024, you reposted somebody else's tweet about Secretary Kemp and you—and here it is, and it

is all in caps, “Lock Georgia’s Secretary of State This Mother F-er Up.”

I did not edit it. I just read the tweet. And then in a tweet that I see about one of our colleagues, Senator Graham, from May 2023 you say, “Graham is a snake.”

OK. So convince me, first, how somebody who falls for conspiracy theories that most fourth graders would find unbelievable but also who uses language like that about elected officials in Georgia and a Senate colleague—convince me that you have got the judgment to be an ambassador.

Mr. WHITE. Thank you, Senator, very much.

I was very proud to support you when you were running for vice president, and it was great spending time with you on the campaign trail and with Secretary Clinton way back.

And I would like to say I do not recall either of those two tweets being mine, but I will say that I was in Georgia in 2020 during the presidential election. I was on the ground in Georgia, and there were substantial irregularities. There were—

Senator KAINE. So do you still believe that—

Mr. WHITE. Well, I think there were irregularities.

Senator KAINE. Do you still believe that the Governor of Georgia, Governor Kemp, and the Secretary of State should be criminally prosecuted?

Mr. WHITE. No, I do not.

Senator KAINE. OK. Well, I would like to submit those tweets for the record. Again, they are less than a year old.

[EDITOR’S NOTE.—The information referred to above can be found in the “Additional Material Submitted for the Record” section at the end of this document.]

Senator KAINE. Do you know who Dries Van Langenhove is?

Mr. WHITE. No, sir.

Senator KAINE. OK. Dries Van Langenhove is a far right Belgian who leads a Flemish nationalist movement and was convicted on charges of hatred, racism, Holocaust denial, and breaching local gun laws within the last year, and you have been tagged on tweets retweeting his content.

Do you know why you would have been tagged on tweets retweeting his content?

Mr. WHITE. Oh, sure. Thank you, Senator, for the question. I appreciate that.

Again, text out of context could be taken out of context. But I am very good friends with an attorney who fights for social justice in countries around the world.

Senator KAINE. Who is that?

Mr. WHITE. I would rather not say his name. But he—

Senator KAINE. Why is that relevant to the question?

Mr. WHITE. No, just because he was working on a case in Georgia to help President Trump when he was being prosecuted, and I think there are two sides to every story.

Senator KAINE. Setting aside the Georgia one because I asked you about that, but why would you be showing up retagged on tweets—

Mr. WHITE. If I may—

Senator Kaine [continuing]. Amplifying anti—Holocaust denialism from a Belgian who has been criminally convicted within the last year?

Mr. White. I understand the question, and I appreciate the question.

And when my team told me about some of the various things that he may have been involved with or not, I am not sure of the things—all of the things he has been involved in or not—the tweet was removed.

Senator Kaine. OK. Well, I would like to introduce that for the record as well, Mr. Chair.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The information referred to above can be found in the "Additional Material Submitted for the Record" section at the end of this document.]

Senator Kaine. Let me come to you, Mr. Evans.

I really enjoyed our conversation the other day. You know, I think living in Virginia—so many State Department and USAID folks live in Virginia, and the RIFs have hit them pretty hard, and also we have an awful lot of people in Virginia who have not been RIF'd but are sharing deep concerns about morale and the State Department. You would play a critical role in that.

They want to be assured that they will be viewed as professionals; they will be judged based on their professional accomplishments and not based on political loyalty.

So should you be confirmed, with your 20+ years of experience as a Foreign Service officer, what can you do in your management role to try to make clear throughout the organization that folks are going to be judged based upon their performance and not on political considerations?

Mr. Evans. Thank you for the question, Senator.

I did have friends that were involved in the RIFs a couple weeks ago, so it did hit me personally as well. It is a very important issue that we maintain morale throughout the State Department.

We depend on people to come in and give their best, and if they are worried about whether or not they are going to have a job tomorrow they cannot do that.

So I am going to take a very close look about how we can sort of repair the damage that was done through the RIFs last week.

I believe that the adjustments were necessary, but now we have to sort of realign and reset and put the people where they need to be and refocus and get back to work.

Senator Kaine. I appreciate you acknowledging that damage was done because I have not heard that acknowledgement before, and I do think the repair work is significant and I appreciate your answer.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Senator Risch. Thank you, Senator Kaine.

Senator Ricketts.

Senator Ricketts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, thank you all for wanting to serve our great nation. I really appreciate it. And also for your families as well because you will spend time away from your friends and family, and they will sacrifice along with you as you do this job, should you be confirmed. So thank you for your interest in wanting to do that.

And I also just want to, again, compliment our State Department people who work in our embassies across the world. They do such a fantastic job.

Argentina's geostrategic significance in the south Atlantic continues to rise. Communist China and Russia are building up their presence around Antarctica, and the Strait of Magellan, which passes through Argentina, is one of two safe maritime routes between the Atlantic and the Pacific.

Encouragingly, under President Milei Argentina has increasingly aligned with the U.S. and NATO. However, due to longstanding tensions between the U.K. and Argentina over the Falklands, Britain has long blocked sales of military equipment with British components to Argentina, even sales by third countries.

This has complicated our ability to support Argentina as it desperately looks to modernize its armed forces. It has also driven Argentina to look to communist China for weapons. The prior government nearly bought Chinese fighter jets, and let us not forget communist China still operates a satellite station in Patagonia.

Dr. Lamelas, under President Milei it appears that real progress can be made between the U.K. and Argentina over the Falklands.

This could lead to loosened restrictions on weapons exports by the U.K. and help steer Argentina's defense modernization away from Beijing and toward Western suppliers.

If confirmed, what actions will you take to encourage increased relations between the U.K. and Argentina to achieve this result?

Dr. LAMELAS. Thank you, Senator Ricketts. Your question is deeply appreciated. Also, your oversight of our ongoing role will be deeply appreciated.

And I do not want to correct you, but the islands are an issue. The United States does not recognize sovereignty over the islands for either Argentina or Britain. They recognize the administration of the British people on the island, but we have a position of neutrality over the islands.

And anything that encourages ongoing dialogue between Britain and Argentina is appreciated. One of the roles that I have as an ambassador would be to travel to all 23 provinces including, obviously, I think if there was an opportunity to travel to the islands I would be more than happy to cooperate with the British administration there and do that as an outreach.

I think Javier Milei has a good perspective on this. We are trying to further align ourselves with Argentina. One of my roles would be to push back against the CCP. The United States has to act as a counterweight against the CCP.

We need to encourage more U.S. goods and supplies. The military sale recently of the F-16s is fantastic because they have ongoing service and maintenance of the F-16s. So more outreach.

One of my goals as ambassador would be to increase trade and increase investment. Currently, Argentina—actually, the U.S. has a approximately a \$2.1 billion trade surplus with Argentina.

I think a rising tide lifts all boats. I would like to increase more trade bilaterally between Argentina and the United States and increase U.S. investments. One of my roles as an ambassador will be not only tariff—I have very little to do with the tariffs. That is the U.S. Trade Representative.

But what I could do is lower nontariff trade barriers that currently exist—VAT taxes, currency controls, port delays.

So all of these efforts that I have outlined, I have a plan, and I would be more than happy to share it with you—are going to improve U.S.-Argentine relationships and push China out little by little.

Senator RICKETTS. Great. Thank you very much.

Well, you know, it is just not about Argentina. Across the world communist China is eagerly looking to increase arms sales, and this has serious implications for us because when countries purchase a Chinese weapon they are tied to Beijing through the entire lifestyle of the weapon, similar to what you were just talking about with the F-16.

That is why we want to sell them the weapons. That is why I introduced the Think Twice Act with Senator Bennet, to require a global strategy to dissuade countries from purchasing Chinese arms, and I hope you will support this legislation, given the impact it would have on your future posting.

And I see that I am out of time, so I will turn it back over to the Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator Ricketts.

Senator Shaheen.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. White and Mr. Rose, each of you has made troubling statements or social media posts either condemning or supporting certain political parties and leaders in Belgium and Poland where you are nominated to serve, and some of these incidents occurred even after you had been formally nominated.

So, if confirmed, do you each commit to remain apolitical in your respective roles and engage with all political parties?

Mr. Rose.

Mr. ROSE. Thank you very much, Senator Shaheen, for that question.

The tweets and the intervention that you referred to are tweets that I stand by, and I would have issued them no matter who was the prime minister of Poland.

We have an outstanding relationship with the current Polish government and the opposition. As you know, on August 6 there will be a new president inaugurated in Poland.

We have got an excellent relationship with President Donald Tusk and his Civic Coalition. We have got a great relationship with the Peace Party, the opposition coalition. If there is one country in Europe where America does not have a problem it is Poland. They are—

Senator SHAHEEN. I agree with that, Mr. Rose, and I am sorry to interrupt, but that was not my question. I agree that the United States and Poland have a very good relationship.

I was there in 2015 when we put troops on the ground for the first time since World War II, and I know how appreciative the Poles were and how supportive they have been of the United States.

My question is if you are confirmed do you commit and do you understand the role of the ambassador is to be neutral, to work with all political parties in the country where you are serving?

Mr. ROSE. Of course, I understand that—

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you.

Mr. ROSE [continuing]. And I respect that but I also—if an interest engages the United States, if there is a direct impact on the United States, I will be a forceful advocate for the President and his agenda.

Senator SHAHEEN. I would expect nothing less from the Ambassador from the United States to any country in the world.

Mr. White, what is your position?

Mr. WHITE. Thank you very much, Senator, for the question.

And absolutely, if confirmed I will not be participating in tweets about internal Belgian politics. I did do that as a private citizen, and just to note I did take it down pretty quickly when I understood some of the ramifications.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you. I appreciate that.

Mr. Evans, as I said in my opening statement, the National Passport Center and the National Visa Center are both located in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

The NVC processed more than 400,000 visas last year alone. The NPC is the largest passport agency in the United States and issues approximately 2 million passports each year.

I think these are essential services for many Americans. Do you commit to paying close attention to these centers and to ensuring the specialized contract work force there is protected?

Mr. EVANS. Thank you for that question, Senator.

I do understand that the passport issuance and the visa issuance are some of the most critical functions that we perform.

The department is committed to making sure that we have the resources in place to fully commit and to fully accomplish our goals in those areas.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you.

I want to talk a little bit, Mr. Evans, about the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program. This is something that I have worked on for a very long time because we had so many Afghans who risked their lives and their families' lives to support our men and women in the military who were serving in Afghanistan, and the Trump administration has said that it is not stopping the processing of Afghan SIVs, but the process seems to have ground to a halt.

So do you know what is happening with that process?

Mr. EVANS. Thank you for that question as well, Senator.

I served in Afghanistan as well at our consulate in Herat, and I am very familiar with the SIV process. I do not know the current status of that process. I have not been involved in anything to do with that.

But if confirmed I will be happy to look into that and bring back some answers to the committee.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you. If you would brief this committee on what is happening with that processing we would appreciate it.

I know that that has been a bipartisan commitment of the committee, to support the Afghan SIVs and to ensure that those who

helped us are secure and have an opportunity to be safe and not be sent back to the Taliban.

I commend the Trump administration's proactive steps with Syrian authorities including on counterterrorism, but I am concerned that the process is being undermined by cuts to assistance for organizations like UNHCR.

The Administration has said they want UNHCR to take over displaced persons camps like Al-Hol in Syria, and at the same time they are cutting the funding for UNHCR.

So how would you protect resources for the shifting U.S. policy on Syria?

Mr. EVANS. Again, thank you for the question, Senator.

One of the things we have to do is we have to look at where our funds are going. We have to make sure that any expenditures we make in the foreign assistance realm are in line with the priorities of the President and the Secretary, and that is exactly what we are going to do.

Senator SHAHEEN. Then how do you make sense of the idea that, on the one hand, we would be saying to UNHCR, we want you to take over these camps, which are such a threat for a renewed terrorist activity by ISIS, and at the same time we are going to cut the funding so that you do not have the resources that it would take to address the threat?

How do you make those two ideas work?

Mr. EVANS. Understood. That is something I am going to have to look into. I do not have the specific details on that.

Senator SHAHEEN. OK. Well, again, I hope you will brief this committee once you get some answers.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator Shaheen.

Gentlemen, we are in the awkward position of not having anybody to ask you questions, but I am told there is two or three Senators who do have some questions for you.

So I am going to take a short break here, and—

Senator SHAHEEN. I can ask some more questions.

Senator RISCH. Have at it, Senator. Have at it.

[Laughter.]

Senator SHAHEEN. All right.

Senator RISCH. I will deduct it from the next time.

Senator SHAHEEN. So, Mr. White, you may be aware that Belgium is currently home to a warehouse that holds commodities to support global health and humanitarian programming.

Despite the goal of the Administration to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse we are hearing that the Administration has made the decision to destroy those commodities instead of passing them along to willing partners, something that I think is unprecedented.

So, if confirmed, how would you engage at the department and with the Belgium government to prevent the destruction of almost \$10 million in commodities in Belgium?

Mr. WHITE. Thank you, Senator Shaheen, for that very important question.

When I did have the wonderful opportunity to meet with Amy and Sophia on your team they did raise that, and as you know I am not confirmed yet and not in a position to influence.

But I promise you that I did pass those concerns of yours and your team and other Senators that mentioned this when we met with them up the chain, so to speak.

So I cannot really add more than that. I am unaware if those press reports are true if they are going to destroy those materials or if they are going to take time to study it more.

I do not know which is your preference. I think you would prefer they not be destroyed, and I have conveyed that to the State Department as best as I can in my very unofficial capacity.

Senator SHAHEEN. Well, thank you. I assume you agree with me that destroying \$10 million in commodities that have been purchased by taxpayers that are not going to be used is not a good use of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. WHITE. Thank you, Senator, for the question.

I would say this. I have great faith in Secretary Rubio, who I think is doing a wonderful job as Secretary of State, and the powers that be will be making that decision way above my pay grade, and the more I am read in I would be happy to come back and brief you if it is still an issue and if there is any way I can help.

But I do have great faith in Secretary Rubio. He sat in your seat and passed bills. I think he is a good steward of the American people's tax dollars, and I have great trust in him.

Senator SHAHEEN. Well, I had a conversation with the deputy secretary for budget management yesterday who did not have some answers on how to deal with those commodities and did not seem to be aware that they were there.

So I think having somebody who is going to raise the issue and try and get some factual information about what is going on is very important.

Mr. WHITE. Yes, Senator. Thank you.

And if I could say, I was told by State that there are efforts by the Belgian government to possibly speak to Secretary Rubio directly. But again, way above my pay grade at this moment. But I am sharing what may be some news on that.

Senator SHAHEEN. Yes, I understood that as well, and I think that would be a positive step forward.

Mr. WHITE. Thank you, ma'am. Thank you.

Senator SHAHEEN. Mr. Lamelas, President Milei's government was hit with the same tariff that has caught many of our allies off guard, and China remains the top market for Argentine soybeans, beef, lithium exports.

So how do we out compete China in Argentina, and how do we reassure our Argentine allies that the United States is going to work with them on the concerns they had with respect to trade?

Dr. LAMELAS. That is a very good question, Senator Shaheen.

President Trump uses tariffs as a negotiation tool. I have known the President for over 15 years now. He is a New York contractor. He is used to hard negotiations, and he uses that as a negotiation tool.

I do not think the actual tariffs have been formulated yet. The U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, Howard Lutnick, and the President are working on that.

The President views President Javier Milei as a friend. I think he understands that Argentina is a partner in South America. Ar-

gentina is essential, critical for opposing the other authoritarian regimes—Cuba, Venezuela, and China.

What I am going to focus on is not the actual tariff. That is beyond my pay grade. But what I need to focus on is decreasing the nontariff trade barriers, and there are many of them.

One of them is the IP protections that exist in Argentina. U.S. pharmaceutical companies, other U.S. companies do not have the same IP protections that they have in the United States.

There is a global standard. I am going to speak out for that standard, for those IP protections. I am going to push lowering VAT taxes or eliminating VAT taxes, decreasing port delays.

Currency—U.S. companies could invest there but they cannot take their currency out. So those are the issues that I can make an impact with, and I trust the President to decide the right tax for Argentina.

Senator SHAHEEN. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. Thank you.

Senator Daines, you are up.

Senator DAINES. Chairman, thank you.

Starting with Mr. Rose—as you know, Poland has long been one of the U.S.'s closest defense partners in Europe. The Poles have no illusions about the threat environment. They are clear eyed. They have made significant investments in energy security as well as defensive capability.

The country already spends over 4 percent of GDP on defense and has committed now to the new benchmark of 5 percent. Furthermore, of course, the U.S. has a permanent troop presence in Poland. I know that is a presence that Poland supports.

Mr. Rose, if confirmed how can you encourage Poland to continue to invest in a national security strategy that is both strategically and technologically interoperable with the United States?

Mr. ROSE. Thank you very much, Senator Daines, for that excellent question, and I greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and your staff earlier this week. You have been a terrific champion of American values and American strength and the support for our allies and partners.

Poland is not going to take much convincing. Poland is there. Poland is our strongest ally in Europe. My apologies to all of our other allies and partners in Europe, but Poland is a front line state.

Poland is very jealously assertive of her sovereignty, is well aware of the risks that confront her geographically, economically, politically.

She has two neighbors that have historically, as you are well aware, not been particularly nice neighbors in times past. Poland will break the 5 percent barrier in GDP expenditure.

Poland—their military, while presently all volunteer, is currently oversubscribed. There will be national conscription that Prime Minister Tusk announced a couple of months ago.

It is a stable democracy. They are ferociously independent, patriotic. They are great allies, and there is literally nothing we cannot suggest to them that they will accept. We have no issue with anybody in Poland. It is bipartisan, strongly pro-American.

Senator DAINES. Yes, I had a chance to meet with some of their leaders that came through town here last week, and I would agree with your assessment.

One other question about Poland and strategy is on energy. I really do believe that energy security is national security, and it all ties together, as we have seen, certainly, after Russia invaded Ukraine.

How can the United States best support Poland as it completes its transition away from Russian energy and ensures both price and supply stability for the country?

Mr. ROSE. Well, Senator, thank you for that question.

Of course, as you are aware Poland is investing billions of dollars to develop an entirely new offtake facility for American exported liquid natural gas, an LNG facility in the town of Gdynia, which is north of Gdansk.

Westinghouse and Bechtel, through the good offices of many folks that sit on this committee and the Administration, has just executed a \$35 billion first tranche agreement for the construction of three 1,000 megawatt AP-1000 nuclear reactors in northwestern Poland that the Polish government is helping to finance.

We have also extended some loan guarantees that NATO has co-signed on. There is an option for three more of these units which can provide, once up and running, almost 60 percent of Poland's electricity needs as they seek to transition from coal, although they are a major coal producer and leaders in technology for both carbon capture and clean coal.

Poland, as you know, has been the leader in Europe protecting itself from energy brinkmanship, energy diplomacy on behalf of the Russians, their shadow fleet.

Poland is just an absolutely terrific and essential partner and ally of this country.

Senator DAINES. Mr. Rose, thank you. I appreciate those comments.

Mr. White, I want to ask a few questions about Belgium. As you know, they have historically been under invested in defense.

The past few months and with the advent of a new government they seem to have brought about a change in that front, and really pleased to see, as we discussed in the office, they recently signed the 5 percent spending pledge on defense.

Furthermore, they just announced a major purchase of F-35s in their defense systems. This is much needed and very welcome. So good news on that front.

Mr. White, when you are confirmed as ambassador how can we best support the Belgium government as they seek to make needed investments in their defensive capabilities?

Mr. WHITE. Thank you so much, Senator Daines, and it was really great to spend time with you. It was a wonderful meeting, and I thank you so much for making time to see me on short notice, and I am very much looking forward to working with you on the economic trade things that we talked about to help strengthen our trade relationship with Belgium.

With regard to the defense issue, we talked about how that breaks down. The 5 percent, really, for everybody to know is—folks

who do not understand this—it is 1.5 percent for infrastructure, 2.5 percent for defense spending.

This announcement of the F-35s purchased by Prime Minister Bart de Wever, the new prime minister, is welcome news and we look forward to tracking that with my—what will be my great partner in Matt Whitaker and Secretary Rubio and the team along with Andy Puzder, who will be at the EU. The three of us there will be working very hard to get Belgium up to that number.

I know that the Belgians are actually watching this committee hearing today, and so I want to compliment the Arizona Coalition, which is the name of their new government, for making that pledge.

They already have infrastructure programs to fix and strengthen their bridges and tunnels that would be dual use under the 1.5 percent so they could be billions into that already, and we will be tracking that and to encourage them.

Secretary Hegseth has also said he will try to make it easier for U.S. companies to sell into Belgium and to make those foreign military sales more productive and streamless.

Senator DAINES. Thank you.

I am out of time. I wish we could talk about Argentina and what Milei has done down there. Amazing transformations. I was down there earlier this year.

But I am out of time, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. You are that, Senator.

Senator DAINES. So I respect the Chairman. He is tougher than I am.

So, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Senator RISCH. Senator Rosen.

Senator ROSEN. Thank you, Chairman Risch.

I appreciate you holding the hearing. I want to thank all of our witnesses for being here, for testifying today.

I want to go right into the AMIA bombings because Congress has long supported Argentina's efforts to investigate and hold accountable those responsible for the 1994 bombings of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association in Buenos Aires. It killed 85 people.

Just last week Senator Curtis and I introduced a resolution, an embrace of this—excuse me, not embrace—in remembrance, excuse me—in remembrance of this horrific attack.

Argentina has linked both Iran and Hezbollah to the attack as well as the bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, which killed 29 people.

So, Dr. Lamelas, how would you assess the status of Argentina's efforts to hold accountable the perpetrators of these violent acts, and if confirmed, how would you advise United States help Argentina in their efforts?

Dr. LAMELAS. Senator, what occurred in Argentina—actually it was the anniversary just recently, the 31st anniversary of the AMIA bombings which killed 85 people.

Before October 7 it was the largest single event where Jews were killed besides the Holocaust. It is a shame. It is incredible that the people involved have not been prosecuted.

The prosecutor died under suspicious circumstances, obviously, and I support any efforts that Milei has to get to the bottom of who did this.

I think there has even been an arrest warrant issued against one of the alleged perpetrators of this. So I will do anything and everything possible to speak against this. I live in south Florida, and there is an extensive Jewish community, and there is a portion of my family that has Jewish roots.

So I feel very strongly about this. So does President Milei. So I will do everything possible to support getting to the bottom of who did this and prosecuting them.

Senator ROSEN. Thank you.

I would like to move on to Mr. Rose, please. I want to talk a little bit about Poland's cybersecurity.

Russia is currently engaged in an aggressive shadow war against our allies in Europe. In Poland Russia employs cyber attacks and information warfare to shape the information space. We all know this. It weakens public trust. It undermines political cohesion.

Yet at the State Department individuals with highly specialized cyber expertise were just RIF'd. For everybody else listening that means they were—well, I will say let go. Fired.

These cuts to our cyber work force, they make no sense to me in light of what is going on. They undermine our own security and that of our partners and allies.

So, Mr. Rose, given the threat Russia poses to Poland in the cyber domain what signal do you think RIF-ing personnel who have expertise to improve Poland's cybersecurity—what message does it send to Russia or to others?

And so if you were Russia would you feel emboldened by this?

Mr. ROSE. I certainly—thank you very much for the question, Senator. Nice to see you.

I believe that there is not a country in Europe that takes cybersecurity—the asymmetric threats constantly unleashed upon Poland and other East European countries, Central European countries, more seriously than Poland. The asymmetric nefarious activities of Russia have actually dramatically increased in the past few weeks.

Senator ROSEN. What do we do to get these folks back to help Poland be sure that we combat—we are battling on this important front?

Mr. ROSE. Poland is quite capable. They have got the most sophisticated anti-cyber capabilities of any country in Europe.

They take this matter extremely seriously. They are forthright, forward looking, and they now actually have to deal with an increased Russian threat. Russian drones are now specifically targeting Polish businesses—private businesses—in Ukraine.

There was a flooring manufacturing company in western Ukraine that was hit from three separate directions by Russian drones last week. Russia is doing everything within its power to test the resolve of the West, the Poles, and our other allies in Europe.

Senator ROSEN. Do you think we have a role to play here in helping be sure that we create a stable forward environment—responsive offense and defense environment in cybersecurity?

This can be a lethal weapon of attack in Poland, and how can the U.S. help here?

Mr. ROSE. Well, I think the U.S. is doing a great deal, a tremendous deal. The President has shown extraordinary patience which apparently is now running out vis-a-vis Vladimir Putin's—

Senator ROSEN. You do not think we need the employees that were let go?

Mr. ROSE. I have no doubt that Secretary Rubio and his staff made effective, very detailed assessments of how to make the State Department more efficient and more effective. I have got complete confidence in the Secretary and the President.

Senator ROSEN. Thank you. I would be interested in you coming back to the committee and talking with us, maybe in a secure location, about some of the cyber efforts going on and what we can do.

Mr. ROSE. I would be honored. Thank you.

Senator ROSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Senator Rosen.

Senator Scott.

Senator SCOTT OF FLORIDA. So thank you, Chairman.

First off, you guys are doing a great job. All four of you are going to do great at your jobs. So I am going to take this—something I wanted to do in the beginning, but I could not be here because of another committee.

I want to recognize Dr. Peter Lamelas, President Trump's nominee is to serve as Ambassador to Argentina. Number one, whatever he and his wife touch will be successful.

He and Stephanie have been unbelievably successful. They are wonderful human beings. They have done—they are great people to be around. So congratulations.

So I just wanted to say some nice things about him. First off, he has got a wonderful wife Stephanie, wonderful mom Mercedes. He has got a very successful brother that I recruited to be at one of my hospitals a long, long, long, long time ago when I had a full head of hair.

But Dr. Lamelas is an embodiment of the American dream. He and his family fled Cuba's illegitimate and repressive communist regime when he was a kid, immigrated into this country where he worked his butt off, and built an impressive career in medicine and in business.

He will tell you how his view of the world has been shaped by his family's experience in Cuba. He understands the importance of democracy, limited government, economic freedom for freedom loving people everywhere. He has had success and experience in both the public and private sector.

He served on the Florida Board of Medicine, on the Department of Justice Public Service Medal of Valor Review Board, which honors our nation's incredible first responders.

So the President made a fantastic choice with everybody here, but I am really glad that it worked out for Peter.

So I look forward to all of you guys, you know, when you get confirmed, but congratulations, and anything I can do for any of you let me know.

So let me just ask a few questions. Mr. Rose, Poland is a strong U.S. ally. What do you think they ought to be doing differently than what they are doing, anything?

Mr. ROSE. I cannot think—thank you very much for the question, Senator.

Poland has been at the forefront of defending the alliance, defending itself. It takes its migrant issue very seriously.

Senator SCOTT OF FLORIDA. They do a fantastic job with the Ukrainians.

Mr. ROSE. More than 1 million Ukrainians have been granted refugee status inside Poland. More than 9 million Ukrainians have facilitated their transit out of Ukraine through Poland.

Poland is our staging area not simply for the U.S. support but for all of NATO's support. Poland is the shield of the eastern flank of NATO, an extraordinary ally, an extraordinary people—proud, sovereign, very jealous of their culture, and incredibly pro-American.

I mean, there are all kinds of domestic political disputes inside Poland but at the 30,000 foot level when it comes to existential issues—

Senator SCOTT OF FLORIDA. They get it.

Mr. ROSE [continuing]. They trip over each other to be more American.

Senator SCOTT OF FLORIDA. Yes.

Mr. White, what do you want to get done? What is success? When you finish your job here, what is success going to be?

Mr. WHITE. Well, thank you so much, Senator, and it is great to be a resident of the great State of Florida. Now my husband and I live there, and you have been so gracious, and your amazing man Paul there has been very helpful on bringing to light the important issues that you are concerned about. So I appreciate that very much, and thank you—

Senator SCOTT OF FLORIDA. You are going to do a great job.

Mr. WHITE. Thank you, sir. Thank you for your service.

So very quickly, we are going to, if confirmed, increase our trade relationship with the great Belgian people. There are some 500 Belgian companies that employ, I think, around 80,000 Americans in the United States, and I look forward to working with them and our American companies and you, sir, about the great companies in Florida that may want to invest in Belgium.

I hope you come visit because I think if anybody can help us close a deal over there it will be you. And we also are very glad that the NATO spending is already on its way up—the billion dollars announced, the F-35s by Prime Minister De Wever. I think we will have a great partner with him on all this.

We do have a problem with the transnational gangs coming in through the port of Antwerp, and China most certainly trying to influence everything in Belgium. So we will be fighting that off.

And we do have some radical Islamic terror cells that are operating, unfortunately, in Belgium that I know the Belgians are now wanting to eradicate. So we will be working closely with our law enforcement partners to do that.

We also have some beautiful cemeteries there that have hallowed ground for our nation's veterans, and I look forward to continuing

to honor them and would love to have you join us next year in the 250 to honor their service.

Senator SCOTT OF FLORIDA. Yes, my dad—it is crazy. He was one of 3,000 people that did all four combat jumps with the 82nd Airborne and then fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He came back alive, so thank God.

Mr. WHITE. Oh, my God.

Senator SCOTT OF FLORIDA. Good for me.

Dr. Lamelas, what can we learn from Milei?

Dr. LAMELAS. We can learn a lot. We can learn a lot from President Milei.

First, I want to say that it is a beautiful country. My wife and myself have been there. We have traveled Buenos Aires, Cordova, Mendoza, and Bariloche.

I respect and admire the passion of the Argentine people, and I respect and admire President Javier Milei. He is an economist. He is a forward leading, forward thinking person.

He is the first libertarian president that has been elected by the people, and he is doing a lot to turn around that country. He has lowered inflation from 300, 400 percent to 30 percent a year.

It is crazy that in the United States we consider that kind of inflation a lot, but in Argentina they had triple digits. They were actually headed to hyperinflation. Within a year he has turned around the country. This year they are going to experience a 5 percent GDP growth.

So we could learn a lot from him and he could learn a lot from us as well. One of the areas that I really want to focus on is increasing trade and increasing investment in Argentina.

It is unusual that the Vaca Muerta area, which is the third largest shale producing gas and shale oil reserves in the world, is in Argentina, and Argentina has to import energy during its winter.

I think there is a lot that we could do here. I think that we could be the ones that provide liquid natural gas to Argentina instead of Bolivia, and I think what Argentina needs is a long term solution.

We have technologies in the United States with extracting energy from shale that we could provide to Argentina. Those are the kind of partnerships that I would like to do, that I would like to promote, to increase U.S. business and trade with Argentina.

Senator SCOTT OF FLORIDA. Thank you.

Thank you, Chairman.

Senator RISCH. Thank you very much, Senator Scott.

Senator Hagerty, I am going to recognize you, and I am going to have to run off and vote. They are threatening me if I do not get down there and vote, so I—

Senator HAGERTY [presiding]. I will be happy to take the gavel and close us out if we—

Senator RISCH. Yes, if you would let me give you this. Thank you all for being here, and I look forward to voting on you in the not too distant future. Thank you so much.

Senator HAGERTY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Rose, I would like to start with you, if I might, to talk about something of great interest to me and a great example, and that is the ability to forge trilateral relationships with the U.S. and allies.

I had the opportunity to work with you during the first Trump administration. I got to see you in action, and I still have great admiration for your skills, and one of the things I thought was quite unique was your ability to forge relations between Poland and our ally Israel.

I would like to talk—I would like for you to talk with us about how that unique experience might have informed your skills to become ambassador, and frankly, how that serves the United States' interest.

Mr. ROSE. Well, thank you very much, Senator, and again, thank you for your remarkable leadership, your tenure as our Ambassador to Japan, and now your service to the people of Tennessee and this U.S. Senate.

Poland and Israel have, to say the least, a complicated relationship tempered by a shared history of horrendous suffering more recently, and yet 600 years of effective cooperation.

One of the issues that seems to predominate American interest in Poland is the question of so called Holocaust restitution, the matter that refers to properties from Holocaust victims that have been expropriated or either completely disappeared.

And it is an important issue. I understand that. But I think it is very, very important for all of us to remember just who the victim is.

Poland was not a perpetrator of the Holocaust. Poland was a victim of the Holocaust. The Polish people, the Polish army, the Polish state, the 22 countries that Nazi Germany either occupied or co-opted through puppet regimes, the only one that was conquered and never surrendered was Poland.

The Polish government removed itself to London where it served in exile, commanded over 100,000 Polish troops during the war, long after the occupation and collapse of Poland. They fought heroically in Italy.

Major General Hugh Dowding, head of the RAF, said that if it was not for Polish pilots and their squadrons Britain would have lost the Battle of Britain. Poland was the only combatant in all the world that fought in the Second World War from day one to the very final day.

And Polish-Israeli relations are of critical interest to me. I believe that I can help begin a process of reconciliation. Both peoples are extremely sensitive.

The Poles, if I can put it none too politely, have been given a terribly bum rap by social history and accepted norms that somehow because 3 million Jews were murdered in Poland that it was somehow Poland's responsibility. It was the Nazis. It was the Germans. It was their auxiliaries.

Israelis need to better understand that. Poles, I think, need to better understand Israeli sensitivities. These are two hugely important allies of the United States. They are both literally on the front lines—Israel currently facing a seven front war, Poland, our guardian of the Eastern Shield.

For our two most active, most capable of self-defense allies not to be on the same page, not to be more closely allied, hurts us. It hurts the United States.

Senator HAGERTY. I look forward to your efforts in that regard because I think you can add tremendous value.

You touched on it here and also, Mr. White, you touched on it in your opening remarks. Something that is also a great concern of mine is foreign military sales. In Poland we have a \$20 billion backlog right now.

Frankly, Poland has stepped up and been one of our greatest allies. They share a border with Russia. We have every interest in making certain that foreign military sales move as expeditiously as possible.

Yet, we have a system here that is absolutely broken. It is inefficient.

You talked, Mr. White, about a billion dollar commitment that the Belgians are making to, again, more foreign military sales. This advances our interoperability, advances our national security interest, and I would just like to encourage all of you to the extent that you have an opportunity to touch on this to work with me, to work with our team, to work with the State Department to try to reform this broken system.

Mr. WHITE. Senator, if I may. Thank you very much for that point, and I do look forward to working with you if confirmed, and I have to say this, otherwise I am going to get in trouble because you are from the great State of Tennessee.

My brother-in-law is sitting behind me, and he and his mother, Bob and Lynn Henningsen, and his brother Christian proud Tennesseans and have great feeling for you, sir.

Senator HAGERTY. Thank you. Thank you very much.

And Mr. Evans, I look forward to working with you. I chair the Subcommittee on State Department and Management. The chair mentioned earlier the situation with the evaluation system—the personnel system at the State Department.

I can tell you from firsthand experience it needs a serious overhaul, and I look forward—I appreciate your remarks, and I look forward to working with you in your new role, and I hope that you will make an appointment to come by and see me soon if you are confirmed.

Mr. EVANS. Thank you, Senator. I will do that.

Senator HAGERTY. With that, I will recognize the Senator from Texas.

Senator CRUZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Welcome to each of you. Congratulations on your nominations.

Mr. Evans, let us start with you. As you said in your opening statement, if confirmed you would oversee the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, DS.

As you said, DS holds the mandate for ensuring the physical security of our staff and their families. That mandate includes the safety of our former diplomats regardless of party affiliation.

Too often our foreign adversaries look at Washington, and they see Republicans or Democrats in charge, and they think that we would tolerate the targeting of former officials of the other party because that is how things work in their regimes.

It should go without saying that the targeting of any former official, Republican or Democrat, will incur the full wrath of the United States. Our foreign adversaries should understand that.

Nevertheless, if confirmed you would also be in charge of making sure that any such targeting failed. To the extent that any former official faces a serious and credible threat from a foreign power there is no toleration on this committee—zero—to allow partisanship into DS.

Can you commit, if confirmed, to ensure that DS remains fully and entirely nonpartisan?

Mr. EVANS. Thank you for that question, Senator.

As I said my opening statement, the security and protection of our people overseas is the most important thing we do, and it also holds to our officials here in the United States, and yes, I do believe that we have a responsibility to make sure that we uphold the commitments that we have made regardless of party.

Senator CRUZ. It is important for any adversaries to understand. The previous Administration, the Biden administration, I disagreed with them on a host of issues.

I think their foreign policy did enormous damage in this world. But there is zero tolerance for any efforts to harm or murder officials from the Biden administration, and any adversary should expect an overwhelming response from the U.S. Government should they attempt to do so.

Mr. Lamelas, corruption poses direct risks to American national security. It enables our adversaries and our enemies to exploit corruption to literally buy up governments.

For example, Argentina's former president, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, undermined the rule of law in Argentina with corruption. Kirchner is implicated in the 2015 death of Argentine special prosecutor Alberto Nisman.

He was murdered the day before he was set to present evidence to the Argentine Congress that would have suggested Kirchner's collusion with Iran to cover up Iran's role in the 1994 AMIA bombing in Buenos Aires, the worst terrorist attack in Argentina's history.

To counter such corruption Congress has provided the President with powerful sanctions including and especially so called 7031(c) sanctions.

The former Biden administration repeatedly politicized those sanctions, using them as a bludgeon against countries and international figures whom Democrats simply do not like.

Meanwhile, they refuse to act against figures like Kirchner who are embraced by the global populist left. In March 2025 the Trump administration quickly ended that double standard.

The State Department rightly sanctioned Kirchner under 7031(c) authorities. In Argentina she is now under house arrest for corruption, and President Milei has gone far in reversing her policies, policies which undermined America and boosted our adversaries.

Please give me your best judgment as to the challenges still presented by Kirchner's legacy and what the United States should be doing to restore the U.S.-Argentinean relationship under Milei.

Dr. LAMELAS. Thank you for that question, Senator.

First and foremost, I want to thank you. I want to thank you. You were one of the first that called out Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner—CFK.

I read—in my preparation for this over the last few weeks I read a letter that you sent to Secretary Blinken back in 2022 calling for sanctions, calling for sanctioning her and her family.

And I want to thank you for that. I think you were the first to have called that out in the United States. I am glad it has happened now with Secretary Rubio.

She has been prosecuted and found guilty of fraud by not one but two courts. Our version of the Supreme Court found her guilty. If she was not a politician there she would be in prison. She is on house arrest because of some political favoritism that is going on down there.

And obviously she was not involved in the AMIA bombings that we know of, but she was definitely involved in the cover up of somehow, and God knows if she was involved in the death of the special prosecutor.

I applaud Milei's efforts to get to the bottom of this. I think we need to continue to investigate who was at fault for the bombings. There is an arrest warrant out, apparently, on some member of Hezbollah, and I support any efforts to continue.

You know, the problem with Argentina is that—and it is not a problem. It is just a challenge, a solution. There are 23 provinces and each of the provinces have their own separate government, and their own separate government could negotiate with external forces, with the Chinese, or others to come in and do projects in that particular province, and that may also lend toward corruption—to corruption on the part of the Chinese.

One of my roles as Ambassador would be to travel to all the provinces and have dialogue and have a true partnership with those governors, not only with the president—not only with President Milei, Gerardo Werthein, the foreign minister, Luis Caputo—Santiago Caputo—and everybody in the Milei government.

But my role is also to get out into the countryside and make sure that we weed out corruption and support Milei and the Milei government on all their efforts to get to the bottom of the AMIA bombing and to make sure that Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner receives the justice that she well deserves.

There is still a movement out there. There is a Kirchnerist movement. It is even a far leftier— probably even further left than the Peronist movement, and that is something that we need to continue to watch out for.

Argentina has had very unusual times. They have had multiple presidencies, and we need to continue to support the Milei presidency through the midterms and through the next term to be able to build a better relationship between our two countries.

Senator CRUZ. Thank you.

Senator HAGERTY. [Off mic] to add any letters of support that the committee may have received. I have in hand, actually, a letter from Senator Lee in favor of Dr. Lamelas here that I would like to ask unanimous consent to submit, plus any others that might be on the way.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The information referred to above can be found in the "Additional Material Submitted for the Record" section at the end of this document.]

Senator HAGERTY. I would also note for the information of the members that the record will remain open until the close of business tomorrow, July 23, including for members to submit questions for the record.

With the thanks of the committee, this hearing is now adjourned. [Whereupon, at 11:40 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

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### Additional Material Submitted for the Record

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO JASON EVANS BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

*Question.* If confirmed, what are your top priorities for reform in the M family?

Answer. If confirmed, I am committed to ensuring the Department fulfills its mission and that every dollar spent and every action taken results in measurable, positive outcomes for the American people. My top priority, if confirmed, is ensuring the Department is equipped to deliver its mission effectively and efficiently through supporting the Department's domestic and global workforce.

*Question.* Why were Executive Offices not consolidated in every Under Secretariat during this first phase of reorganization?

Answer. The consolidation of the executive offices made sense where the principal audience is domestic. Across M, F, T, E, and R, the majority of the Executive functions support domestic offices and were consolidated at the Family level. For P the executive offices are the main conduit of support to the management platforms out in the field. They perform support functions that some of the other executive offices do not, and it was critical to keep support to the field consistent while the Department made changes in the domestic context.

*Question.* Will you commit to further evaluating pathways whereby remaining unconsolidated Executive Offices that can be consolidated at the Undersecretariat level are indeed consolidated?

Answer. Future consolidation of executive offices is certainly on the table as we continue to evaluate how the Department operates.

*Question.* Please provide a detailed explanation of where exactly within the Department the functions of the Office of Management Strategy and Solutions (M/SS) will now be carried out, as well as any functions that will be discontinued.

Answer. Most functions of the Office of Management Strategy and Solutions (M/SS) will be carried out in the Under Secretary for Management's Executive Office (M/EX). The M/EX office reports directly to the Under Secretary.

The Department's Center for Analytics, which was established in M/SS, is now realigned to the Bureau of Diplomatic Technology (DT) as part of the reorganization, where its functions will continue. M/SS budget functions and a related position are being realigned to the Bureau of the Comptroller and Global Financial Services (CGFS).

*Question.* M/SS historically served as a hub for innovation not found elsewhere in the Department. In your role as Under Secretary for Management, how will you ensure that this capacity for innovation is preserved within the M family?

Answer. Most functions of the Office of Management Strategy and Solutions (M/SS) will be carried out in the Under Secretary for Management's Executive Office (M/EX).

*Question.* My Diplomatic Security and Support Act of 2022 required that the Director of M/SS sit on Security Review Committees. How does the Department intend to follow that requirement given the recent reorganization?

Answer. The Director of the Office of Management Strategy and Solutions (M/SS) will continue as a position within the Under Secretary for Management's Executive Office (M/EX) overseeing most of the functions of M/SS.

*Question.* Where do you see opportunities to re-balance State's risk calculus to ensure diplomats make the most of their time in the field, and how would you work to address this as Under Secretary for Management?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I commit to working within the Department to continually evaluate how it does business in our embassies and consulates overseas safely and effectively in light of risks. Balancing the Department's mission overseas and the safety and security of our personnel is a high priority of Department leadership.

*Question.* As Under Secretary for Management, what efforts would you hope to take to reform the performance evaluation system at the Department?

*Answer.* If confirmed as Under Secretary for Management, I would prioritize reforming the Department's performance evaluation system to ensure consistency, transparency, accuracy, and alignment with mission-critical goals. Efforts would focus on streamlining the process to reduce administrative burdens, incorporate clear metrics tied to individual performance and organizational objectives, and ensure evaluations are conducted with integrity across all offices worldwide at all specializations and hierarchies. The Department will recognize excellence, promote professional development, and strengthen the workforce's ability to advance U.S. foreign policy.

*Question.* Will you commit to keeping this committee updated on your efforts to reform the performance evaluation system?

*Answer.* Yes.

*Question.* As you work to ensure a secure and efficient visa vetting process in your capacity overseeing the Bureau of Consular Affairs, how will you make sure that J-1 visas for seasonal workers continue to be issued in a reliable way?

*Answer.* If confirmed, my first priority in every consular section will be assisting Americans. Consular managers adjust visa appointment scheduling to accommodate fluctuations in seasonal applications. Whether it is J-1 Summer Work Travel, FIFA fans coming for the world cup, or H-2A seasonal agriculture workers, consular sections have and will continue to predict demand and shift resources to meet policy priorities, including that all applicants are appropriately vetted and do not pose a risk to U.S. national security.

*Question.* If confirmed, what steps will you take from your perch as Under Secretary for Management to improve the visa process for foreign religious workers and ensure that it runs as smoothly as possible?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I will support the legitimate travel and employment of eligible religious workers (R-1 nonimmigrants), who are aliens coming to the United States temporarily to work at least part-time as a minister or member of the clergy in a religious vocation or occupation and be employed by eligible religious organizations. R-1 visa applicants must have an approved petition. All R-1 applicants with approved petitions will be adjudicated on their individual merits and subject to the same vetting measures with respect to security concerns and the national interests of the United States that are applied to all visa applicants.

*Question.* Given the Chinese Communist Party's strategy to undermine US influence through economic coercion, technological dominance, and control of critical supply chains, what specific role should the E-Bureau and T-Bureau play in advancing US leadership and resilience in this geopolitical competition?

*Answer.* The T and E families play critical and complementary roles in mobilizing Department tools to promote U.S. economic and technology leadership, while protecting ourselves from China and other strategic adversaries. If confirmed, I will work with the E family to promote coordination with allies and partners to build our economic resilience, reduce dependencies on China, counter Beijing's economic coercion, and strengthen U.S. and partners' inbound and outbound investment tools to address national security risks. If confirmed, I will also work with the T family to protect U.S. national security by preventing, disrupting, and countering the proliferation of WMD and advanced conventional weapons, including through working with likeminded partners, the development of new export controls on CET and their adoption through the Wassenaar Arrangement, and efforts to strengthen research security, supply chain security, export controls, customs enforcement, and visa vetting.

*Question.* In markets where Chinese firms are undercutting on price and infrastructure, what tools should the State Department's use to support expansion of US/allied private sector abroad?

*Answer.* The State Department develops and maintains robust foreign government and business relationships to advocate effectively for U.S. companies. It works closely with interagency partners, including the Department of Commerce, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, the U.S. Export-Import Bank, and

the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, to develop U.S. alternatives to Chinese infrastructure. If confirmed, I will support the use of such tools to promote U.S. business and reduce China-related risks and dependencies overseas.

*Question.* What are the top challenges in US-China tech competition that you feel we're facing today, and what does 'winning' actually mean—from supply chain control to innovation leadership? What role should diplomacy play in advancing the US success?

*Answer.* Technology is a critical component of national influence, strength, prosperity, and security. If confirmed, I am committed to continuing the Department's work in forging partnerships to ensure American technology continues to be the gold standard worldwide through the promotion of American technological excellence, secure technology supply chains, pro-innovation policies, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. I will also push back against efforts by China and others to control the development, production, and deployment of critical and emerging technologies.

*Question.* What is State's vision for tech diplomacy and top priorities? What specific outcomes should the E-bureau and T-bureau drive?

*Answer.* The State Department's tech diplomacy strengthens U.S. national security, promotes American prosperity, and ensures that American values, freedom, innovation, security, and the rule of law, are embedded in the technologies shaping the 21st century.

The entire Department, including the E- and T-Undersecretariats, work together to build coalitions to counter authoritarian models of technology governance and make sure that when the world thinks of trustworthy and secure technology, they think of the United States.

*Question.* Many tech diplomacy efforts tend to be reactive to threats or regulatory issues. How does State plan to shift U.S. tech diplomacy toward a more proactive agenda—one that shapes markets, norms, and alliances ahead of authoritarian influence?

*Answer.* The State Department is moving aggressively to put the United States national interests back in the driver's seat. The Department is doubling down on U.S. leadership of technical standards, secure supply chains, and innovation. The Department is deploying diplomacy and foreign assistance to build resilient, secure digital ecosystems that underpin U.S. economic and security interests. Through its daily work, the Department is shaping the market with U.S. alternatives to untrusted vendors and helping countries adopt policies and make investments that favor market access and security over partnering with China.

*Question.* How should the State Department engage the private sector and inter-agency on tech diplomacy? When should industry be consulted, on what kinds of decisions, and through what mechanisms?

*Answer.* The United States cannot lead in global tech diplomacy without the private sector at the table. American innovation comes from our entrepreneurs, our engineers, our platforms, our startups and tech companies. The State Department is committed to real and routine engagement. Industry will be consulted early—when we are shaping negotiating positions, assessing foreign investment risks, or designing capacity-building initiatives for our allies—including on technical standards, supply chains, data governance, and export controls.

*Question.* When assessing tech diplomacy decisions, how will State balance commercial market access with national security risk mitigation? Where do you see the greatest need for cross-bureau coordination?

*Answer.* The State Department prioritizes supporting U.S. companies competing—and winning—in global markets. That's essential to our economic leadership and our diplomatic leverage. But market access can't result in exposure to coercive data laws, IP theft, or strategic dependencies on adversaries that create unacceptable risks to U.S. commercial dominance. The Department is working to ensure that market entry decisions are made with a full understanding of the geopolitical risks involved. The Department's reorganization leverages expertise and key functions to better integrate Department coordination.

*Question.* Is the State Department resourced to be able to execute on the tech diplomacy vision—are there gaps in capabilities?

*Answer.* The Department has built a strong foundation, especially with the reorganization of the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy, and we're leveraging every tool we have. But the Department will need to continue to keep pace with

technological disruption and the scale of the geopolitical challenge. The Department will continue to work closely with Congress to ensure we have the resources, talent, and flexibilities needed to safeguard our national interests.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO JASON EVANS BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

*Question.* Please provide a detailed account of the matters and areas you worked on in the Counselor's office prior to your nomination.

*Answer.* Prior to my nomination, I was working mainly on the M Family with the exception of Consular Affairs, which was handled by other members of C Staff. In this role, I advised the Counselor on a variety of M Family—related topics, including DS, OBO, CGFS, BP, DT, A Bureau, FA, OFM, MED, FSI, and GTM.

*Question.* Did you work on anything related to the State Department reorganization?

*Answer.* Yes, prior to my nomination I was working on the Reorganization as part of the M Family portfolio.

*Question.* If yes, what parts of the reorganization did you work on and what recommendations did you make?

*Answer.* My focus was mainly on the M Family and administrative functions.

*Question.* You have years of State Department service but have not served as chief of mission or the head of a bureau. There is a big difference between running a management team at an embassy and overseeing multiple bureaus with broad responsibilities for over 75,000 employees, including the entire human resources office. Can you speak to your qualifications for this role and how you plan to account for any lack of experience?

*Answer.* I have served in leadership roles throughout my career, including several stints as Acting Deputy Chief of Mission and one period as Charge. I was also the Chief of Staff in OBO as the bureau transitioned through three different Directors or Acting Directors. I have the educational background and training to effectively manage the resources entrusted to my leadership. My experiential base has put me in a position to take on this role.

Additionally, I count among my friends and colleagues several former Ambassadors, assistant secretaries, and two retired senior officers who have been in the role I am stepping into, all of whom have graciously offered to provide advice and counsel (if confirmed).

*Question.* What role did you have as a senior advisor in the Counselor's office in the reduction in force (RIF) process and the notices that were sent to personnel on July 11?

*Answer.* I stepped back from the reorganization when my nomination was announced and was not working on it when decisions about the RIF were made.

*Question.* What specific steps will you take to ensure that personnel who received RIF notices receive timely communication to questions and concerns they send to the Department?

*Answer.* As I understand it, there is a dedicated email address for individuals with questions or concerns about the RIF. If confirmed, I will ensure these inquiries are handled in a timely manner.

*Question.* What specific steps will you take to communicate with personnel who received RIF notices about their severance pay and reemployment opportunities?

*Answer.* As I understand it, each person who received a RIF notice also received information on pay and reemployment rights. That information is also available on the State Department's Reorganization SharePoint page. If individuals have questions about their specific situation, they can reach out to the email address cited in their notice for assistance.

*Question.* What is your understanding about what severance pay employees who received RIF notices will receive?

*Answer.* I was not involved in the RIF, and I did not get into the details of how severance pay would be calculated. If confirmed, I will certainly investigate the various scenarios and make sure the Department is accurately calculating severance.

*Question.* Do you commit to providing RIF'd employees with access to critical documents and information that were used related to an individual's RIF notice, including the retention register and documentation on how the competitive area was defined?

*Answer.* It is my understanding that these documents are required to be provided as part of any Reduction in Force conducted across the U.S. Government, and the Department will comply with these requirements.

*Question.* The Department announced new policies that to be considered for a visa, any applicant must make all their social accounts public. How will you ensure these new vetting standards do not violate the digital privacy of minors who are applying for a visa?

*Answer.* Applicants for F, M, and J visas are requested to set their social media accounts to "public" as part of a broader review of online presence to allow adjudicators to fully review visa eligibility criteria. The vast majority of applicants for such visas are adults. Consular officers consider the totality of circumstances when assessing minors' online presence, credibility, and eligibility to receive a visa. The results of any review are protected as part of the visa record.

*Question.* What is your view on the role that social media should play in vetting applicants for visas and how do you plan to implement guidance on any such vetting?

*Answer.* Every prospective traveler to the United States undergoes extensive interagency security vetting. Prohibiting entry to the United States by those who might pose a threat to U.S. national security is key to protecting Americans and America. The Department will use all tools available to do so. Under new guidance, consular officers conduct a comprehensive and thorough vetting of the online presence of all student and exchange visitor applicants in the F, M, and J nonimmigrant classifications. Social media and the internet can be a source of extensive media information about visa applicants that needs to be taken into account in visa decisions.

*Question.* What criteria should be used when issuing travel bans and restricting foreign nationals from traveling to the U.S.?

*Answer.* As the President has made clear, it is the policy of the United States to protect Americans from aliens who intend to commit terrorist attacks, threaten our national security, undermine public safety, espouse hateful ideology, or otherwise exploit the immigration laws for malevolent purposes. The Department coordinated with other agencies to identify countries for which vetting and screening information is deficient, whose nationals have exploited our visa system, which have historically failed to accept their removable nationals, and whose nationals pose significant risks to overstaying their visas in the United States.

*Question.* How does the decision to fire over 100 professionals from the bureau of Consular Affairs contribute to the goal of making America safer?

*Answer.* The Secretary of State is focused on making America safer through secure visa vetting and U.S. passport adjudication, as well as effective consular services that protect the safety and welfare of American citizens. A streamlined Bureau of Consular Affairs plays a central role in accomplishing this key goal. Consular staff at embassies and consulates around the world, and passport agencies and centers across the United States, make America safer every day. The Department did not reduce passport adjudicator or visa adjudicator positions or positions providing consular services to Americans abroad.

*Question.* How will you replace the expertise and compensate for the capacity lost within CA with these terminations?

*Answer.* The safety and security of U.S. citizens remains Consular Affairs' top priority. This was the largest reorganization of the Department in decades and was sorely needed as the organization has become bloated and stagnant. The objective of the reorganization is to focus resources on policy priorities, eliminate redundant functions, and empower Department teams while increasing accountability to make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous. In this reorganization, the Department continues to effectively help Americans abroad, allocate resources to efficiently issue U.S. passports to Americans every day, and protect America through secure visa vetting.

*Question.* What role does the Department of Homeland Security, specifically the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the U.S. Customs and Border Protec-

tion and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, have in working with the State Department on visa services?

Answer. In fiscal year 2024, the Department of State adjudicated and processed approximately 14 million visa applications overseas. In doing this, the Department worked with DOJ, the FBI, the Director of National Intelligence, and with DHS to ensure applicants meet security and eligibility standards for visa issuance. DHS provides data, information, and input to support consular officers' decisions to issue or deny visas. This partnership between the Department of State and the inter-agency, including DHS, prevents fraud, enhances security, and ensures compliance with immigration laws. Together, the State Department and its partners (including DHS) ensure security and protect Americans in the visa and immigration processes we oversee.

*Question.* Would you seek changes to the current interagency coordination structure?

Answer. While the current interagency coordination structure functions well, the Department continuously strives to enhance interagency workflows and information sharing to ensure the protection of national security and the advancement of American interests.

*Question.* Diplomatic Security should play in coordinating or supporting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on deportations, and how do you plan to carry out that role?

Answer. DS's mission closely aligns with and supports Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), including in that DSS special agents investigate cases of passport fraud, which often result in identifying illegal immigrants. Also, in February 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) delegated limited authority to special agents within the Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) to assist with immigration enforcement, including the investigation, location, and apprehension of individuals violating Title 8, Chapter 12 of the U.S. Code. DSS instructs the DSS special agents to operate under the supervision of qualified immigration personnel.

DSS special agents also work closely with ICE and Homeland Security Task Forces (HSTFs) in their regions nationwide to support immigration enforcement initiatives.

*Question.* What role do you think Diplomatic Security should play in assisting with investigations into human trafficking or identifying potential human traffickers?

Answer. Recent legislation granted the Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) investigative authority under Title 18, Chapter 77 of the United States Code, expanding its mandate to include transnational human trafficking violations. DSS has a long-standing history of successfully investigating and supporting the prosecution of transnational human traffickers, to include labor trafficking, when a case involves some aspect of passport, visa, or travel document fraud. The new authority covers offenses where part of the conduct occurred outside the United States or involved foreign nationals, even without a nexus to passport, visa, or travel document fraud. DSS special agents and intelligence analysts, operating across both domestic and international investigative offices, work in coordination with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) to identify and pursue human trafficking activities that directly impact Department of State operations. DSS special agents also collaborate with host-nation law enforcement, immigration, and customs authorities to detect and dismantle transnational criminal organizations engaged in trafficking and smuggling.

*Question.* Even before the recent RIFs, Diplomatic Security (DS) struggled to fully support missions overseas following the end of the Overseas Contingency Operations account. How do the recent reductions in DS funding and staff align with the Department's highest priority, the safety and security of your employees and families overseas?

Answer. Security for our diplomatic personnel and facilities overseas is provided by more than 32,000 local guards, 2,000 marine security guards, and over 1,000 regional security officers and assistants. The reorganization has not affected these staffing levels.

If confirmed, I will remain committed to supporting DS's resource needs and their work enabling diplomatic engagement overseas in the face of ongoing threats.

*Question.* How will you maintain the same high standards of physical security at embassies and consulates after reducing the number of security engineers and other related professionals?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I will work closely with Diplomatic Security leadership to strategically manage resources and personnel, ensuring we always uphold the rigorous security standards mandated by law and Department policy.

*Question.* Diplomatic Security Technical Specialists and Security Engineering Officers were among those who were recently fired on July 11. Some would have gone on to serve at mission critical and hardship posts. How will the loss of these personnel impact security at posts?

*Answer.* I cannot speak to this issue, as I have limited insight into the decision-making process behind the reduction in security technical specialists and security engineers. If confirmed, I will work closely with Diplomatic Security leadership to ensure we uphold rigorous security standards.

*Question.* What is the role of Diplomatic Security Technical Specialists and Security Engineering Officers and how do you anticipate personnel cuts to these agents will affect overall DS operations?

*Answer.* Security Engineering Officers (SEOs) and Security Technical Specialists (STS) help safeguard U.S. Department of State personnel, facilities, and sensitive information against cyber, physical, and technical threats. I cannot speak to this issue, as I have limited insight into the decisionmaking process behind the reduction in security technical specialists and security engineers. If confirmed, I will work closely with DS leadership to ensure that the reductions will not compromise overall security at posts.

*Question.* What steps will you take to ensure that former U.S. officials targeted by our adversaries are protected and that protection for former U.S. officials is not a partisan issue?

*Answer.* Pursuant to the authority under section 7034(k)(5) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, as carried forward by the Continuing Appropriations Act, protective services may be provided to former or retired senior Department of State officials or employees that the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, determines a serious and credible threat from a foreign power arising from duties performed while employed by the Department. Any such determination will be transmitted to congressional leadership and the appropriate congressional committees, to include justification for the provision of protective services by the Department.

*Question.* The reorganization abolished the Office of Casualty Assistance. The loss is not just of a single office, but personnel with years of experience, including the Director, who led the Office for nearly 20 years. How will you replace the expertise that is lost in dealing with death cases and repatriation of American citizens at the Department?

*Answer.* The Department of State remains firmly committed to providing essential support to employees and their families following a death in service, whether overseas or domestic. In April, the Bureau of Personnel and Training's Office of Employee Relations took over the responsibilities of the Office of Casualty Assistance. The Department is actively collaborating with casualty assistance partners across the Department to ensure responsive, high-quality service, and uninterrupted support for our community.

*Question.* Can you commit to ensuring the closure of the Office of Casualty Assistance does not result in loss of capacity in this essential area?

*Answer.* Yes, the Office of Employee Relations continues to serve as the central office at Department headquarters, coordinating casualty assistance efforts across bureaus and functions based on their areas of expertise.

*Question.* How will you ensure there is consistent support for employees across all regions in the absence of central office at State headquarters dedicated to this support?

*Answer.* In April, the functions of the Office of Casualty Assistance were transferred to the Office of Employee Relations, which now operates within the newly formed Bureau of Personnel and Training (formerly the Bureau of Global Talent Management). The Office of Employee Relations continues to serve as the central office at Department headquarters, coordinating casualty assistance efforts across bureaus and functions based on their areas of expertise.

*Question.* Does the Department plan to close any embassies or consulates overseas in the next 3 years?

Answer. The State Department continues to assess our global programs and posture to ensure we are best positioned to address modern challenges on behalf of the American people.

*Question.* What factors would prompt the Department to consider closing an overseas mission?

Answer. The State Department continues to assess its global programs and posture to ensure it is best positioned to address modern challenges on behalf of the American people.

*Question.* Is the Department considering significant reductions of locally employed staff (LES) at embassies?

Answer. The Department has no plans to conduct further reductions in force at this time.

*Question.* If so, what will go into the decisionmaking process to reduce LES at a post and which posts will be considered?

Answer. The Department has no plans to conduct further reductions in force at this time.

*Question.* As a result of the elimination of USAID and its overseas missions and workforce, many embassies face significant shortfalls in their operating budgets in the absence of USAID's contributions to the shared services budget mechanism (ICASS). Can you please provide a list of embassies which face a 15 percent or greater reduction in their ICASS funding because of the elimination of USAID contributions?

Answer. While I am not yet involved in detailed discussions on this topic, I am aware of ICASS funding changes resulting from the departure of USAID personnel from many missions overseas, particularly in the Africa region. If confirmed, I will work across the Department to review our overseas missions' resources and am happy to inform the committee when appropriate.

*Question.* How will you ensure these missions are able to continue providing core services and support to the embassy and consulate teams?

Answer. If confirmed, I am committed to ensuring the Department's overseas missions have the services and support needed to run effective operations, even in the face of budgetary constraints. The Department will ensure our missions are able to continue providing core services by pursuing cross-functional staffing, outsourcing certain functions where appropriate, and streamlining administrative processes using technology to improve efficiency. The Department will also prioritize essential services to ensure our teams are not spending time on redundant or non-essential functions. By prioritizing essential services, we maintain the high standards of support for our embassies to advance U.S. foreign policy.

*Question.* The Department's reorganization will eliminate the Office of Management Strategy and Solutions. What is your plan to ensure that the Department continues to engage in projects that push the envelope and promote active risk management?

Answer. Most functions of the Office of Management Strategy and Solutions (M/SS) will be carried out in the Under Secretary for Management's Executive Office (M/EX).

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RESPONSE TO AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO JASON EVANS BY SENATOR DAVID MCCORMICK

*Question.* Is the State Department planning to reallocate manpower and resources to higher-priority regions and, if so, how?

Answer. The State Department is actively aligning manpower and resources to address higher-priority issues in line with Administration priorities. The reorganization plan focuses on empowering regional bureaus and streamlining functional operations to enhance efficiency. Resources will be directed toward areas with significant geopolitical, economic, and security implications, ensuring the Department can respond dynamically to evolving priorities. The Department remains committed to maintaining robust engagement globally while prioritizing regions of strategic importance.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO JASON EVANS BY SENATOR BRIAN SCHATZ

*Question.* Does the United States have sufficient consular services in the Pacific Islands countries to meet demand in a way that does not overly burden local citizens and negatively impact relations with the United States?

*Answer.* The Department's number one priority is to provide needed consular services to Americans overseas, especially in crisis and emergency circumstances. Americans in the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are served by a network of supporting posts, with Consulate Auckland and Embassies Port Moresby and Suva providing services via periodic TDY visits to Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu. The Department hopes to offer limited in-person Nonimmigrant Visa (NIV) services when possible. Consular Affairs continuously evaluates resources at our overseas locations to ensure we are efficiently providing the services needed.

*Question.* If confirmed, how will you incentivize FSOs to serve at U.S. embassies in this strategically important region, but one where living conditions can present significant challenges for staff posted there?

*Answer.* Foreign service employees are incentivized to serve in posts with difficult living conditions by offering them hardship pay, and in some cases, danger pay and other incentives. If confirmed, I would explore additional ways to incentivize Foreign Service employees to serve in strategically important regions. Secretary Rubio has emphasized the importance of ensuring the Department's workforce is positioned to meet critical global priorities and I am committed to implementing his vision.

*Question.* How will the United States maintain and expand influence in this region, which is vital to our Asia security strategy, if in addition to cuts to exchange programs and foreign assistance, there is no expansion of U.S. diplomatic presence?

*Answer.* As the most dynamic and fastest-growing region on earth, the Indo-Pacific is a leading priority for U.S. foreign policy and essential to our security and prosperity. The Trump Administration is intensifying its focus on the Indo-Pacific to make America more secure and more prosperous, positioning the United States to deepen our engagement in a region in the issues that matter most to the American people.

The United States is drawing on all instruments of power and influence to deter aggression and counter provocations and other dangerous and destabilizing actions, including through our diplomatic posts in the region. On the economic front, the United States is promoting private investment, advancing American innovation, strengthening our economic competitiveness, and rebuilding supply chains.

*Question.* Do you have an assessment of what U.S. Mission Australia's needs are to adequately accommodate the consular demand of American service members and civilians stationed in Western Australia under AUKUS?

*Answer.* The U.S. Mission to Australia prioritizes staffing, infrastructure, and crisis preparedness to assist U.S. citizens across Western Australia. The U.S. Consulate General in Perth is well-positioned to accommodate increased demand from service members or civilians stationed there under AUKUS.

The Department remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of U.S. citizens, including those stationed in strategic locations under international agreements.

*Question.* What is the Department's plan to ensure adequate staffing and provision of consular services?

*Answer.* The Department carefully allocates resources to meet the Administration's priorities to keep our borders secure, thoroughly vet all applicants for visas, ensure the welfare of U.S. citizens, and issue passports on a timely basis. In fact, the Bureau of Consular Affairs is opening six new domestic passport agencies to expand passport services for Americans and is hiring, training, and deploying new passport adjudicators. If confirmed, I will work closely with CA to review the allocation, efficiency, and effectiveness of our resources in response to priorities and demands for consular services.

*Question.* Please provide details on the percentage and number of USAID staff/positions being relocated to the State Department and the relevant office assignment.

*Answer.* The Department is currently in the process of integrating USAID functions into the State Department as part of the Administration's broader reorganization strategy. New foreign assistance personnel, the vast majority of whom had ex-

perience with USAID, are being hired by State to manage former USAID programs and functions.

*Question.* How many contract and grant officers were employed by the State Department and USAID as of January 19, 2025, and how many were employed as of July 14, 2025?

*Answer.* The Department is currently in the process of integrating USAID functions into the State Department as part of the Administration's broader reorganization strategy, including contract and grant officers. The Department is committed to ensuring effective oversight and management of taxpayer funds.

*Question.* How will the State Department maintain meaningful accountability on remaining international assistance after having nearly eliminated USAID expertise, including monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness and efficiency of programs?

*Answer.* As of July 1, USAID has transitioned management of its ongoing foreign assistance programs to the Department of State. The Department will ensure that every taxpayer dollar is justified by its benefit to concrete U.S. national interests.

*Question.* Please provide an office-level accounting of the staffing footprint on January 19, 2025, compared to the post-reorganization July 14, 2025 footprint.

*Answer.* A post reorganization footprint is not available at this time as the reorganization is ongoing.

*Question.* How many, if any, personnel from the Bureau of Energy Resources were retained, and what are their areas of expertise?

*Answer.* The Department remains adequately staffed to be able to advance and advocate for the national security interests of Americans.

*Question.* How many personnel are currently responsible for engaging on international energy security, developing markets for U.S. exports, securing critical minerals supply chains, analyzing energy markets, and advocating on behalf of U.S. companies with respect to energy?

*Answer.* I understand the Department remains adequately staffed to engage on the above issues.

*Question.* To whom do the personnel referenced above report?

*Answer.* Personnel focused exclusively on the above issues report to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy and Critical Minerals, and through him to the Senior Bureau Official for Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs.

*Question.* How many, if any, personnel were retained from the Office of Global Change?

*Answer.* I understand the Department remains adequately staffed to advance and advocate for U.S. interests.

*Question.* If confirmed, how will you ensure that the Department meets its statutory obligations with respect to international engagement on climate change and clean energy technologies?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I will work to ensure the Department continues engaging internationally in a manner consistent with its statutory requirements in all areas for which I am responsible.

*Question.* If confirmed, would you be amenable to implementing an early retirement authority for FSOs, if that authority was granted by Congress?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I would welcome the opportunity to consult with Congress on identifying any additional authorities that may be necessary to streamline the Department's workforce in alignment with Administration priorities. I am committed to working closely with lawmakers to develop solutions that strengthen the Department's ability to advance U.S. foreign policy objectives effectively.

*Question.* Are Marshallese or other citizens of COFA states being denied entry to the United States and if so, on what basis?

*Answer.* I refer you to the Department of Homeland Security for questions regarding entry into the United States.

*Question.* Is the Department currently utilizing AI/big data analytics to more quickly and efficiently process Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and if not, is the Department considering doing so, in what capacity?

*Answer.* The Department is piloting AI to more quickly and efficiently search and review documents, identify duplicate requests, and identify documents that were

previously released to the public. The Department also piloted the use of AI to redact FOIA requested documents. The Department is assessing the quality, performance, and cost effectiveness of these pilot use cases.

*Question.* What is the timeframe for potential utilization?

Answer. The Department is already utilizing AI for the pilot use cases referenced in question 17.

*Question.* What are the limitations preventing current/faster implementation?

Answer. The Department is navigating complex data with security requirements.

*Question.* Are more resources (staff, funding, compute) needed?

Answer. The Department is currently assessing priority AI investments and will align resources as appropriate.

*Question.* Are there statutory limitations creating challenges in this regard?

Answer. Not that I am aware of.

*Question.* What is the current backlog of FOIA requests and what is the current average response time to a request?

Answer. The current backlog is 24,875 requests. The average response time for all processed complex FOIA requests is 242.66 days.

*Question.* Is the Department currently utilizing AI/big data analytics to more quickly and efficiently review classified documents for declassification (in line with declassification schedules)?

Answer. Yes. Since 2023, the Department has been using AI to support compliance with E.O. 13526 automatic declassification review requirements and the 10 CFR 1045 mandate for protecting nuclear energy information. By augmenting the human review process for 25-year-old cables, AI has reduced human labor requirements by approximately 80 percent. The Department continues to collaborate with interagency and international partners to expand this capability as resources allow.

*Question.* If not, is the Department considering doing so, in what capacity?

Answer. The Department is at the forefront of applying AI solutions to records declassification and is actively seeking to expand their use as resources permit.

*Question.* What is the timeframe for potential utilization?

Answer. The Department of State is currently utilizing AI for declassification review.

*Question.* What are the limitations preventing current/faster implementation?

Answer. Prioritization of AI investments is the only significant challenge in both maintaining the current capability and expanding it.

*Question.* Are more resources (staff, funding, compute) needed?

Answer. The Department is currently assessing priority AI investments and will align resources as appropriate.

*Question.* Are there statutory limitations creating challenges in this regard?

Answer. No, specific to declassification and AI. A statutory challenge does exist that contributes to overclassification. Granting the previously requested statutory authority to protect sensitive foreign government information—similar to authorities exercised by other Federal agencies—would enable the Department to rely less on classification as a protective measure. This, in turn, would help reduce overclassification and streamline the declassification review process.

*Question.* What is the current backlog of declassification of documents?

Answer. The Department does not currently have a backlog in the automatic declassification review process established under Executive Order 13526 Section 3.3.

*Question.* What is the trend in this backlog? Worsening, improving?

Answer. The Department does not currently have a backlog in the automatic declassification review process established under Executive Order 13526 Section 3.3.

*Question.* Is the Department currently utilizing AI/big data analytics to assess foreign applicants for visa eligibility?

Answer. Given our commitment to and responsibility for national security, the Department uses all appropriate tools to consider information when reviewing visa applications for possible ineligibilities. The Department is actively exploring the use of machine learning and AI-based tools to support visa application review and vet-

ting involving Department and interagency data. The Department believes that responsible use of AI and big data analytics as important means to strengthen national security, support consistent and policy-aligned visa adjudications.

*Question.* Is there any effort underway or being considered to make use of the enormous amount of information that Consular Affairs data bases contain on visa applicants, in combination with the Department of Homeland Security's Arrival and Departure Information System (ADIS) and other data bases, to assist State Department visa adjudicators in decisionmaking on individual applicants?

*Answer.* The State Department currently uses ADIS and other interagency data bases to support the visa adjudication process. Adjudicators have access to a wide range of information, including from interagency partners, to determine visa applicants' eligibility under the INA and to screen and vet applicants to uphold the highest standards of national security and public safety.

*Question.* If not, is the Department considering doing so, in what capacity?

*Answer.* The Department is already utilizing available Consular Affairs and interagency information and resources to appropriately screen and vet visa applicants. The Department believes that every visa decision is a national security decision.

*Question.* What is the timeframe for potential utilization?

*Answer.* The Department routinely explores and tests capabilities and integrates these tools into adjudication systems to enhance operational efficiency and support visa officers in adjudicating visa applications.

*Question.* What are the limitations preventing current/faster implementation?

*Answer.* The Department is currently assessing priority investments and will align resources as appropriate.

*Question.* Are more resources (staff, funding, compute) needed?

*Answer.* As noted above, the Department is currently assessing priority investments and will align resources as appropriate. After this assessment is complete, we will be better able to discuss if more resources are needed. I will keep the Committee updated on this assessment as appropriate.

*Question.* Are there statutory limitations creating challenges in this regard?

*Answer.* I am not aware of statutory limitations that present a challenge to these efforts.

*Question.* Is the Department currently utilizing AI to ingest cables and other diplomatic communications to create meta-analyses and identify long-term trends in international relations to support Department policymaking?

*Answer.* State employees have access to cables and generative AI to more effectively search, compare, and summarize cables to address long-term trends in international relations to support Department policymaking.

*Question.* If not, is the Department considering doing so, in what capacity?

*Answer.* State employees have access to cables and generative AI to more effectively search, compare, and summarize cables to address long-term trends in international relations to support Department policymaking.

*Question.* What is the timeframe for potential utilization?

*Answer.* We are using AI to more effectively search, compare and summarize cables. The Department is currently expanding its AI capabilities and cable use cases to increase operational efficiencies and advance the Department's foreign policy objectives.

*Question.* What are the limitations preventing current/faster implementation?

*Answer.* The primary limitations preventing faster implementation include the sheer volume of data that must be processed and the complex requirements for secure and compliant data sharing. These challenges necessitate robust infrastructure, and strict adherence to security standards. The Department is committed to attracting and retaining top AI talent to promote AI innovation across the Department and maintaining US leadership in AI. Streamlining Federal AI procurement, hiring, and technology security assessments and authorization (e.g. FedRAMP) would accelerate AI innovation and adoption and improve efficiency.

*Question.* Are more resources (staff, funding, compute) needed?

*Answer.* As the Department continues to pilot AI innovation and scale priority initiatives at the enterprise level, resource requirements will be assessed.

*Question.* Are there statutory limitations creating challenges in this regard?

*Answer.* I am aware of no specific statutory limitations that categorically prevent using AI to detect patterns and trends in cable data. However, there are several statutory and regulatory frameworks that must be carefully navigated to ensure compliance. These include classification and information handling requirements under Executive Order 13526 and other statutes and directives, as well as protections for personally identifiable information (PII) under the Privacy Act of 1974. These laws do not preclude AI use, but they do provide important protections on how cable data, particularly classified or sensitive information, can be accessed, processed, and analyzed using AI.

*Question.* How many positions will be opened to USAID personnel—both direct hires and contractors?

*Answer.* The Department is actively working to finalize the integration of USAID functions into the State Department, including determining the number of positions that will be available to former USAID personnel, both direct hires and contractors. New foreign assistance personnel, the vast majority of whom had experience with USAID, are being hired by State to manage former USAID programs and functions.

*Question.* Are there opportunities for current State Department personnel to assume responsibilities for the administration of foreign assistance previously managed by USAID?

*Answer.* The integration of USAID into the State Department reflects a strategic effort to streamline foreign assistance and align it with U.S. national interests. As part of this reorganization, opportunities exist for current State Department personnel to assume responsibilities previously managed by USAID, consistent with what the Secretary has stated about aligning diplomacy and foreign assistance. Personnel transitions will be managed dynamically, with opportunities for reassignment based on skills and mission needs.

*Question.* If so, what training or other resources may be needed to build such expertise, and what is your plan to provide that training and resources and on what timeline?

*Answer.* If confirmed, training and resources will be tailored to ensure personnel can meet the demands of administering aid programs previously managed by USAID. This includes specialized training in program management, monitoring, and evaluation, as well as regional and technical expertise—is already underway. The State Department recognizes the importance of equipping personnel with the necessary expertise to manage foreign assistance effectively. The reorganization plan incorporates a phased approach to training, with initial modules focused on immediate operational needs and long-term capacity building.

*Question.* Under statute, the Ambassador-at-Large for PEPFAR/GHSD must report directly to the Secretary of State. How will this occur in the new organizational structure?

*Answer.* It is my understanding that the Ambassador-at-Large for PEPFAR/Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy (GHSD) will now report to the Under Secretary for Foreign Assistance, Humanitarian Affairs and Religious Freedom (F). If confirmed, I will work with F on this matter.

*Question.* What are the plans and timeline to nominate an Ambassador-at-Large to lead the critical work of GHSD?

*Answer.* I am not aware of any timelines to nominate an Ambassador-at-Large.

*Question.* How will GHSD manage the former health portfolio of USAID (PEPFAR and other health programs) with so few staff and still maintain HIV impact?

*Answer.* It is my understanding that on July 1, the Bureau of Global Health Security & Diplomacy (GHSD) welcomed 50 domestic staff to the bureau (and 30 overseas staff) to ensure continuity of former USAID programs now integrated within the Department. If confirmed, I will work with GHSD to continue to ensure smooth integration of designated life-saving global health programs from USAID to the Department and this transition is well underway.

*Question.* The CDC is maintaining over 12 million people on life-saving HIV treatment as a PEPFAR implementing agency. How will the State Department work with CDC and other PEPFAR implementing agencies to successfully administer PEPFAR programs?

*Answer.* I understand that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is a PEPFAR implementing agency, and the Bureau of Global Health Security and Di-

plomacy coordinates with CDC to ensure successful implementation of the PEPFAR program.

*Question.* Is the State Department's Office of the Inspector General properly resourced to provide oversight of humanitarian programs? It is reported that there are proposed timelines for transitioning PEPFAR programs to full implementation and financing by host governments.

*Answer.* If confirmed, I will look into this matter and closely coordinate with the Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy and State's Office of the Inspector General on this matter.

*Question.* How does the State Department assess the work of PEPFAR will evolve over the next 5 years, and how does the Department reorganization align with the vision for PEPFAR?

*Answer.* It is my understanding that GHSD will now report to the Under Secretary for Foreign Assistance, Humanitarian Affairs and Religious Freedom (F). If confirmed, I will work closely with the Bureau of Global Health and Diplomacy on any future plans for PEPFAR.

*Question.* How many FSO positions were unfilled worldwide at the time of the RIF? And how many FSO positions will be unfilled once the new organizational chart is implemented?

*Answer.* The Department remains adequately staffed to be able to advance and advocate for the national security interests of Americans. A post reorganization footprint is not available at this time as the reorganization is ongoing.

*Question.* It is reported that a substantial number of administrative errors were made in calculating competition and ranking scores which resulted in employees unjustly fired. For example, a significant number of military veterans were reportedly fired with no regard to their previous service or veteran status. How is the Department identifying and rectifying these administrative errors, and are there more administrative errors yet to be reviewed and processed?

*Answer.* The Department uses official system-of-record data to construct RIF registries and informed employees in their notice to report errors.

*Question.* The Foreign Service is a global workforce whose members move from position to position. Why was the Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM) rewritten to separate FSOs based upon their current position instead of across the global cohort?

*Answer.* The Department constantly evaluates its staffing posture and policies to ensure it is able to advance and advocate for the national security interests of Americans.

*Question.* How many Foreign Service employees and Civil Service employees were in competition groups of only one person?

*Answer.* As the RIF process has not concluded, final details are not yet available.

*Question.* Please explain the rationale for competition groups of one in light of merit principles and the competitive RIF process prescribed by the Foreign Service Act.

*Answer.* The purpose of the domestic reorganization is to focus the Department's resources on policy priorities and eliminate redundant functions in order to better deliver for American taxpayers and empower the workforce from the ground up, and the Foreign Service Act expressly states that the first consideration to which reductions in force should "give due effect" is "Organizational changes." 22 U.S.C. § 4010a(a)(1).

*Question.* There are reports that the Department will onboard a new class of FSOs this fall. What is the justification for hiring new FSOs so soon after separating so many FSOs, many with decades of experience?

*Answer.* The decision of whether to onboard a new class of Foreign Service Officers (FSOs) this fall reflects the Department's commitment to aligning its workforce with the Administration's priorities, addressing emerging global challenges, and preparing the next generation of foreign diplomats. To address these evolving diplomatic needs in the future, the Department remains committed to developing individuals who can address those needs.

Moreover, the Secretary remains attentive to Congress' longstanding expectation of "a systematic long-term projection of personnel flows and needs designed to provide a regular, predictable flow of recruitment in the Service." 22 U.S.C. § 4001(c)(2)(A).

*Question.* As a National War College alumnus, you are aware of the value of these types of excursionary educational assignments for employee skills development and career growth. How did the Department assess the impact on interagency coordination and skillset building when eliminating details and assignments to other agencies, including the Department of Defense, its educational institutions and combatant commands?

*Answer.* The Department recognizes the value of interagency assignments, such as those with the Department of Defense and its educational institutions, in fostering skills development, career growth, and coordination across agencies. The decision to eliminate certain details and assignments was part of a broader reorganization aimed at streamlining operations and focusing resources on mission-critical needs. Many training opportunities remain unchanged, such as assignments to the National War College and other DOD institutions. These changes were carefully assessed, and the Department remains committed to maintaining strong interagency collaboration through additional mechanisms, including joint training programs and strategic partnerships.

*Question.* It is reported that dozens of Department employees subject to RIF have successfully appealed and had their RIF notice rescinded, via a process called “reclama,” while others have received no response from their reclama requests. What is the criteria the Department is using for granting reclama?

*Answer.* RIFs were conducted in accordance with applicable legal requirements. Accordingly, the Department had not solicited or acted upon policy based “reclamas” or other requests for differential treatment. A very small number of RIF statuses were adjusted in response to legal rights or to correct administrative errors.

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RESPONSE TO AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO THOMAS ROSE BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

*Question.* Poland is one of the U.S.’ closest allies in Europe and a clear example of a country that takes responsibility for its own security and appreciates the impact that U.S. presence plays in deterring foreign adversaries. As Ambassador, how will you work with Poland to advance our relationship to address American security interests in Europe?

*Answer.* Poland is a steadfast ally and a front-line nation on NATO’s Eastern Flank, demonstrating leadership within the Alliance by prioritizing defense investment. In 2025, Poland is dedicating nearly 5 percent of its GDP to defense, the highest rate in NATO, underscoring its commitment to regional security and burden-sharing.

Through the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement signed during President Trump’s first term, Poland has gone above and beyond in supporting U.S. troops stationed within its borders. Poland provides the necessary infrastructure as well as covers other costs for lodging, food, laundry, and fuel, contributing over \$100 million annually.

Poland has prioritized acquiring top-tier U.S. defense equipment, making it one of the largest purchasers of U.S. military technology globally. Current Foreign Military Sales contracts exceed \$50 billion, further strengthening the bilateral defense relationship.

If confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Poland, I will work to deepen the U.S.-Poland bilateral relationship by building upon these mutually beneficial strategic investments. In collaboration with the interagency, I commit to identifying new opportunities to support Poland’s leadership in improving Europe’s role within NATO.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO THOMAS ROSE BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

*NATO*

*Question.* What do you see as the benefit of the permanent U.S. force presence in Poland and the U.S. role as the framework nation for the NATO battlegroup in Poland?

*Answer.* As a steadfast ally on NATO’s Eastern Flank, Poland has prioritized cooperation with the U.S. and has become a leader in NATO. Through the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement signed during President Trump’s first term, Poland

has gone above and beyond in supporting U.S. troops, contributing over \$100 million annually to the necessary infrastructure and living costs. This presence is mutually beneficial as Poland continues to heavily invest in its own security on NATO's Eastern Flank to deter aggression and promote stability and peace on the European continent.

*Question.* How would you advise the Trump Administration with respect to the U.S. force posture in Poland?

*Answer.* This presence is mutually beneficial, as it strengthens Poland's security posture while promoting stability and peace on the European continent, something President Trump made clear was a priority during the NATO Summit in The Hague.

*Polish Domestic Politics*

*Question.* Is it ever appropriate to appear to take sides in Polish domestic politics?

*Answer.* I look forward to engaging with all sides in Poland to advance U.S. interests and bilateral relations without interfering in domestic political matters.

*Question.* If so, when?

*Answer.* Regardless of political party or affiliation of the Polish government, if confirmed and as appropriate, I will unapologetically advance President Trump's demand for policies that protect and promote America's interests.

*Question.* Do you think it was appropriate for Secretary Noem to endorse President-elect Nawrocki?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I will focus on advancing U.S. interests and bilateral relations regardless of political party or affiliation of the Polish government.

*Belarus*

*Question.* How would you work with the Polish government to feed into U.S. policy toward Belarus?

*Answer.* I would collaborate closely with Congress, the interagency, and the Polish government to align U.S. and Polish efforts in our engagement with Belarus.

*Question.* Where is there space for U.S.-Polish cooperation with respect to the Lukashenka regime and Belarus' democratic forces in exile?

*Answer.* There is significant space for cooperation when it comes to securing the release of political prisoners, as well as advancing U.S., Polish, and NATO security interests in the region—including border security issues.

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RESPONSE TO AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO THOMAS ROSE BY SENATOR DAVID MCCORMICK

*Question.* Poland has become America's "model NATO ally" through increased defense spending and a major modernization program that leverages multiple U.S. funding sources to ensure Poland has the materiel it needs to defend NATO's Eastern Flank. As Poland absorbs and integrates this influx of materiel, how do you think the United States should best prioritize security assistance to Poland during your tenure as ambassador?

*Answer.* As a front-line nation on NATO's Eastern Flank, Poland has emerged as a leader within the Alliance by prioritizing defense investment, dedicating nearly 5 percent of its GDP to defense in 2025.

Poland has effectively utilized U.S. programs, including billions in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) loans and loan guarantees, to advance its military modernization efforts, prioritizing acquiring top-tier U.S. defense equipment to bolster its capabilities.

If confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Poland, I will work to deepen the U.S.-Poland strategic partnership, building upon these mutually beneficial programs and identifying new opportunities to support Poland's leadership in enhancing Europe's role within the Alliance.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO WILLIAM WHITE BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

*Question.* How will you urge Belgium to raise defense spending to 2 percent GDP this year and 5 percent before 2035?

*Answer.* As a founder and host of NATO, Belgium is a longstanding military ally. The Belgian military, with approximately 26,000 personnel, provides contributions to NATO, United Nations, and other overseas missions supporting our collective security.

It is time Belgium steps up and does more to assume responsibility for European security. I was pleased to see Belgium's new government plans to reach 2 percent this year, and glad to see Belgium, alongside NATO allies at The Hague Summit, commit to 5 percent by 2035. This is a significant improvement over the last government's plan to reach 2 percent in 2035.

If confirmed, one of my top priorities will be to press Belgian leaders to quickly achieve the 2 percent threshold and continue this upward trend toward 5 percent, including by highlighting the importance of Belgium meeting its NATO capability targets.

*Question.* As you may be aware, the majority of frozen Russian sovereign assets are held at Euroclear, the primary financial clearinghouse for Europe, which is located in Belgium. How will you approach conversations about the disposition of these assets with the Belgian government?

*Answer.* Belgium sees Russia as a direct threat to European security and has provided an estimated \$2.6 billion in military assistance and civilian support to Ukraine since 2022, including through Belgian tax revenue generated from the interest on frozen Russian sovereign assets.

Belgium was central to the G7 effort to fund Extraordinary Revenue Acceleration loans to Ukraine using profits from immobilized Russian sovereign assets. As home to Euroclear—one of the largest international central securities depositories—Belgium plays a key role in enforcing sanctions. Roughly \$353 billion in assets are immobilized in Belgium, including \$225 billion in Russian sovereign assets.

If confirmed, I will work closely with Belgian counterparts to advance President Trump's goal of ending the bloodshed in Ukraine, including through continued close coordination on immobilized Russian sovereign assets.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO WILLIAM WHITE BY SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN

*Question.* Belgium is a multi-ethnic and diverse country with a large Muslim population. How do you intend to engage meaningfully with all faiths, especially the Islamic community?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I will direct the U.S. Embassy team to understand, inform, and engage with all facets of the Belgian public. This includes meeting with Belgian leaders from all faiths and ensuring public diplomacy efforts are balanced between different communities in Belgium, including the Islamic community.

I will leverage our public diplomacy resources to foster mutual understanding and build support for U.S. policies through programming for a wide range of interlocutors.

*Question.* Given your prolific use of social media to reflect your personal views, which has continued following your nomination, how do you expect to use your social media accounts if you are confirmed as Ambassador to ensure that your personal views do not impede your ability to serve as U.S. Ambassador to all Belgian citizens?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I intend to work with the Embassy Public Affairs team to use the social media accounts designated to my position as Ambassador for official use only. I intend to limit my personal use of social media and exercise a deeper degree of discretion given my status as Chief of Mission.

*Question.* Do you commit to carefully vetting all social media posts before reposting or amplifying other accounts?

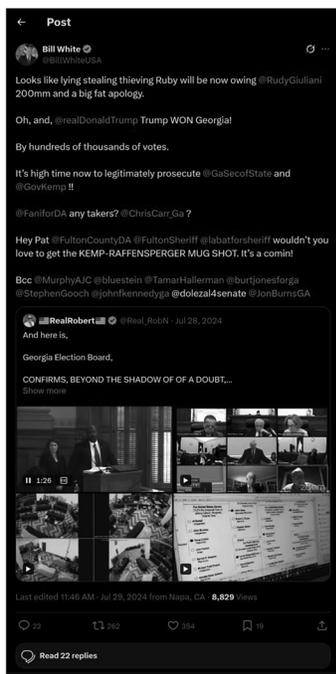
*Answer.* Yes, you have my commitment that I will exercise discretion in my personal use of social media.

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RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED TO WILLIAM WHITE BY SENATOR TIM KAINE

Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. William White, Nominee For U.S. Ambassador to Belgium By Senator Tim Kaine (No.1 to No.8) Senate Foreign Relations Committee July 22, 2025

Question 1: Why did you post this on your social media account?



Answer 1:

As mentioned in the hearing, I was present on the ground for the 2020 elections and I personally witnessed several irregularities in several Georgia

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Mr. William White, Nominee For U.S. Ambassador to Belgium  
By Senator Tim Kaine (No.1 to No.8)  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
July 22, 2025**

counties. I do not recall why I posted this, but I believe I was commenting on the video above. As stated in the hearing, the U.S. Congress certified President Biden to have won the election and he served his term for four years.

**Question 2:**

Do you still believe the views expressed in the post documented in question 1?

**Answer 2:**

No, I do not.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Mr. William White, Nominee For U.S. Ambassador to Belgium  
By Senator Tim Kaine (No.1 to No.8)  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
July 22, 2025**

**Question 3:** Why did you post this on your social media account?



**Answer 3:**

I do not recall why I posted this at the time.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Mr. William White, Nominee For U.S. Ambassador to Belgium  
By Senator Tim Kaine (No.1 to No.8)  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
July 22, 2025**

**Question 4:**

Do you still believe the views expressed in the post documented in question 3?

**Answer 4:**

No, I do not.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Mr. William White, Nominee For U.S. Ambassador to Belgium  
By Senator Tim Kaine (No.1 to No.8)  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
July 22, 2025**

**Question 5:** Why did you post this on your social media account?



**Answer 5:**

I do not recall the reason behind posting this tweet.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Mr. William White, Nominee For U.S. Ambassador to Belgium  
By Senator Tim Kaine (No.1 to No.8)  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
July 22, 2025**

**Question 6:**

Do you still believe the views expressed in the post documented in question 5?

**Answer 6:**

The senior Senator from the great state of South Carolina, Lindsey Graham, is a close friend, a mentor, and someone for whom I have the greatest respect.

**Question 7:**

Why did you post this on your social media account?

**Answer 7:**

As I mentioned in the hearing, a friend of mine had asked me to repost this tweet. As I respect Senator Graham immensely, I apologize for not thoroughly reviewing this tweet and its potential implications.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Mr. William White, Nominee For U.S. Ambassador to Belgium  
By Senator Tim Kaine (No.1 to No.8)  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
July 22, 2025**



**Question 8:**

Do you subscribe to Dries Van Langenhove's views?

**Answer 8:**

No, I do not. The post was removed.

RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO PETER LAMELAS BY SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH

*Question.* President Milei is a key partner in our Hemisphere. If confirmed, how will you look to deepen our economic and security relations with Argentina?

*Answer.* If confirmed, I look forward to working with all leaders across Argentina—regardless of political affiliation—to expand economic cooperation, deepen diplomatic exchange, and help both our countries thrive. I will stand firm against authoritarianism and anti-democratic governments that do not respect the rule of law.

President Milei is a key partner in our hemisphere, and if confirmed, I will work to deepen our economic and security relationship with Argentina in ways that advance our strategic interests. Economically, I will focus on supporting trade discussions, building on President Milei’s pro-market reforms that have reduced trade barriers and created new opportunities for U.S. exporters and investors, while keeping in mind USTR has the lead on trade. I will prioritize expanding bilateral trade and investment in energy, critical minerals, and technology, while addressing non-tariff trade barriers such as improving intellectual property protections, particularly in pharmaceuticals. These efforts will strengthen U.S.-Argentina trade relations and enhance our ability to compete globally.

On security, I will work to bolster Argentina’s leadership in combating synthetic drugs, transnational criminal organizations, and terrorist groups, as well as strengthening border security. This includes enhancing cross-border cooperation to dismantle criminal networks and seeking additional designations under Argentine law of Foreign Terrorist Organizations of shared concern. My goal is to fortify a resilient, forward-looking partnership that promotes stability for both countries and the broader region.

*Question.* What practical measures would you recommend to reduce Chinese technological and financial influence in Argentina?

*Answer.* To reduce China’s technological and financial influence in Argentina, I will strengthen U.S.-Argentina collaboration in key sectors such as critical minerals, energy, infrastructure, and technology. If confirmed, I will work to deepen relationships with the private sector. I would encourage increased U.S. investment in Argentina’s lithium and copper production, and in energy projects, by offering alternatives to Chinese financing while supporting Argentina’s economic growth. Advocating for U.S. and other trusted technology suppliers, particularly in telecommunications and digital infrastructure can help counter Chinese influence in strategic industries. Additionally, reaching agreements to reduce non-tariff barriers and improve intellectual property protections will make U.S. goods and services more competitive in Argentina’s market. Finally, increasing U.S. support for Argentina’s pro-market reforms and offering technical assistance for regulatory modernization can help attract more U.S. businesses and reduce reliance on Chinese capital.

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RESPONSE TO AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR THE RECORD SUBMITTED  
TO PETER LAMELAS BY SENATOR DAVID MCCORMICK

*Question.* Mr. Lamelas, as Argentina’s economy rebounds under the dynamic leadership of President Milei, the country has emerged as a potential “friend-shoring” opportunity for critical minerals. In your view what are the main opportunities and challenges in advancing bilateral cooperation on critical minerals as both of our countries try to divest their supply chains from China?

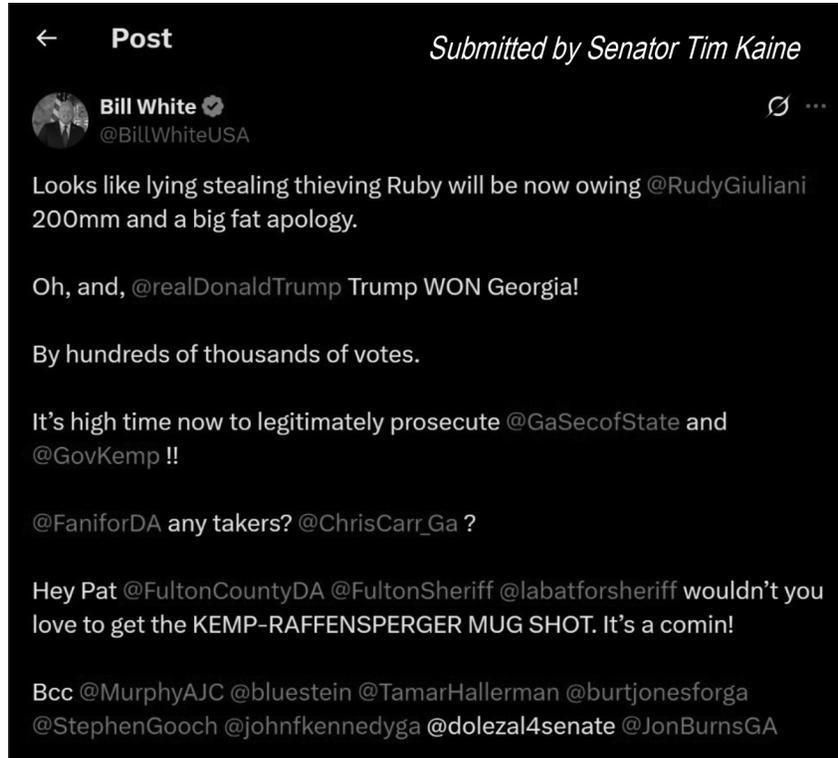
*Answer.* I want to be clear: if confirmed, my role is not to interfere in Argentina’s domestic politics, but to build bridges between our two nations. I respect Argentina’s sovereignty, its democratic institutions, and the diversity of views within its society. I’m here to serve as a partner, not a partisan.

However, we will aggressively compete with China and other countries for investment and trade and require a level playing field free of corruption to do business. Our goal is to align our America first policies with Argentina’s interests to the benefit of both countries.

Argentina’s rebound under President Milei presents significant opportunities for bilateral cooperation on critical minerals, particularly in leveraging its vast lithium reserves, growing copper production, and expanding uranium mining under the “Argentine Nuclear Plan.” His administration’s focus on regulatory reform and improving the investment climate enhances its appeal as a partner for diversifying supply chains away from China. China’s deep involvement in Argentina’s mining sector,

backed by Belt and Road Initiative projects and currency swaps, allows it to fund strategic ventures. Aging infrastructure and distorted electricity subsidies further complicate efforts to promote investment in mining by U.S. companies. Argentina's efforts to promote alternatives to Chinese investments and strengthen sustainable mining can create conditions favorable to U.S. foreign direct investment. Strengthening civil nuclear ties and supporting infrastructure modernization will also be essential to overcoming obstacles and building a resilient partnership that diversifies supply chains and supports economic growth.

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 **RealRobert**  @Real\_RobN · Jul 28, 2024

And here is,  
Georgia Election Board,  
CONFIRMS, BEYOND THE SHADOW OF OF A DOUBT,...

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Last edited 11:46 AM · Jul 29, 2024 from Napa, CA · **8,829** Views

 22    262    354    19   

 **Read 22 replies**

← **Post** Submitted by Senator Tim Kaine

 **Bill White**   
@BillWhiteUSA  ...

**LOCK** @GaSecofState - - THIS MOTHER EFFER UP.

 **Jeff Fulgham**  @jeffmfulgham · Aug 8, 2024

I believe we have sufficient evidence to have @GaSecofState Brad Raffensperger placed under arrest for concealing evidence of massive election fraud in Georgia 2020. I'm calling on the GBI to launch an investigation into the GASOS office for covering up evidence of fraud and

Show more

5:10 PM · Aug 8, 2024 from Georgia, USA · **3,138** Views

 6    62    184    1   

 **Read 6 replies**

← **Post** Submitted by Senator Tim Kaine

 **Bill White**   ...  
@BillWhiteUSA

Apologize. @LindseyGrahamSC is saying that they should apologize. Huh? He is not saying they should go to jail bc he was part of the wishy washy bs during the whole thing - hedging his bets. Graham is a snake.

We demand prosecutions and jail time for this catastrophic corruption federal election interference and more by the FBI DOJ CLINTONS ETC. Save the apologies!!!

 **John Solomon**  @jsolomonReports · May 16, 2023  
Watch: Sen. Graham says FBI, DOJ should apologize to those affected by Durham investigation [justthenews.com/videos/sen-gra...](https://justthenews.com/videos/sen-gra...)

8:22 PM · May 16, 2023 · **8,135** Views

 6    26    130      

 **Read 6 replies**

Bill White reposted Submitted by Senator Tim Kaine

 **Kim Michelle Broderick** @kimmichelleBro4 · May 18 ↻ ...  
@BillWhiteUSA

 **Dries Van Langenhove** @DVanLangenhove · May 12

This Friday, they may send me to prison for years, so this video is my last chance. They are trying to destroy me, but with your help, we will destroy them. #FreeDries



3:08

🗨️ ↻ 1 ❤️ 1 📊 407 🔖 📤

MIKE LEE  
UTAH  
MARK WATT  
CHIEF OF STAFF

Submitted by Senator Mike Lee

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4404

COMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
CHAIRMAN  
JUDICIARY  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
BUDGET

July 21, 2025

Chairman Risch and Colleagues:

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of Dr. Peter Lamelas to be the next U.S. Ambassador to Argentina. Dr. Lamelas is not only a physician, but he is also deeply committed to public service and is someone whose life has had a distinctly American arc – all attributes which make him resoundingly qualified to represent American interests and values abroad.

Dr. Lamelas was born in communist Cuba and immigrated to the United States, where he became nothing less than an American success story. He earned his M.D. in 1981, followed by an M.B.A in 1993, setting the stage for a decades-long career in medicine and business. He founded MD Now Urgent Care in 2005, which would later become the largest urgent care company in the state of Florida, and has been recognized for excellence in his field more than once. Along the way, Dr. Lamelas never lost sight of the importance of public service. He served as Town Commissioner in Manalapan, Florida; taught the next generation of medical professionals as a clinical instructor; and was selected by President Trump to serve on the Department of Justice's Medal of Valor Review Board during the first Trump administration.

As it relates to Argentina, Dr. Lamelas is no stranger to this vital relationship or the actors involved. He has already cultivated a productive relationship with Argentina's President Milei and is well-versed in the present and future trajectory of Argentine politics. Given his personal background and professional successes, he keenly understands that every individual and every nation's fullest potential is unleashed when government is kept at a minimum, guarding individual liberties and allowing the private sector to thrive. This is precisely the worldview we need more of at the State Department, as President Trump seeks to reinvigorate commercial statecraft and looks to our allies, like Argentina, to forge stronger bilateral relationships.

I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Lamelas for several years and calling him a friend. With Dr. Lamelas leading our Embassy, I have no doubt that America and Argentina can reach new heights and unlock unprecedented levels of cooperation during our governments' time of uniquely aligned priorities. Speaking with every confidence, Dr. Lamelas will be an asset to the America First foreign policy vision, and I look forward to his confirmation.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Lee  
United States Senator

