

**Opening Statement for Ambassador Richard Duke Buchan III  
Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco  
U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
July 29, 2025**

Thank you, Chairman Hagerty, Ranking Member Murphy, and distinguished Members of the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today. I am deeply grateful to President Trump and humbled to be nominated to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco. I am also grateful to Secretary Rubio for his support throughout this process. Recent events around the world show that President Trump knows how to make America strong, safe, and prosperous. History shows that peace through strength works. If confirmed, I will work tirelessly to represent the interests of the United States in Morocco by advancing those proven policies.

Each of us has followed a unique path to public service. As a 10th generation North Carolinian who grew up on a tobacco and cattle farm, I know that I am here because of the people and the land that nurtured me. I would like to recognize two members of my family who are with me here today: my wife, Hannah, and my daughter, Cate. Their support and others that could not join us has been invaluable to me.

The opportunity to serve my country for a second time is a dream come true. My years as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain and the Principality of Andorra and four decades of work across the globe have taught me the importance of listening to and learning from others to forge solutions and advance U.S. interests. My academic background in languages and business, along with my professional experience has prepared me to strengthen ties with Morocco. My family and I developed a deep appreciation and respect for the people and culture of Spain during our years of service there. If

confirmed, we look forward to doing the same in Morocco. I have been traveling to Morocco for over 40 years. It is a beautiful, fascinating, and strategic country. I know that our diplomatic team in Morocco – Americans and Moroccans – is outstanding. If confirmed, I look forward to learning from and leading them as we make the bilateral relationship even stronger.

Morocco is one of our oldest partners. Our Treaty of Peace and Friendship dates back to 1786. For almost two hundred and forty years, our bilateral relationship has made Americans and Moroccans safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

Our human connections to Morocco are historic, deep, and meaningful. Many Americans travel to Morocco each year to explore its rich culture and beautiful landscape. If confirmed, my highest priority will be the safety and security of American citizens in Morocco, including that of our fantastic American and local team at U.S. Embassy Rabat and U.S. Consulate-General Casablanca.

King Mohammed VI is a valued leader and a friend of the United States. Morocco is a pillar of stability, and its strategic location makes it critical to American national security. Morocco has long been a key security counterpart, hosting AFRICOM's largest joint military exercise, African Lion, and serving as a capable and reliable partner in combating terrorism, particularly in Africa. If confirmed, I will work to strengthen our long-standing security relationship as we confront common challenges.

As I know firsthand from my years in international business and finance, Morocco is also a model economic partner. The United States and Morocco have a robust trade relationship, characterized by a significant U.S. trade surplus. My career has been built on finding and pursuing opportunities. If confirmed, I will strive to increase opportunities for U.S. businesses throughout Morocco, where America can offer world-class technology to

support Morocco's ambitions to build its technology, transportation, agriculture, and energy sectors.

On April 8, Secretary Rubio reiterated that the United States recognizes Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara and supports Morocco's serious, credible, and realistic Autonomy Proposal as the only basis for a just and lasting solution to the dispute. He reaffirmed President Trump's urging for the parties to engage in discussions without delay, using Morocco's Autonomy Proposal as the only framework, to negotiate a mutually acceptable solution. If confirmed, I will facilitate progress toward this goal.

In 2020, Morocco re-established relations with Israel in a historic peace alliance that continues to grow and inspire. In the wake of Hamas' horrific October 7 terrorist attacks against Israel, Morocco has sustained vital channels with Jerusalem and has been a powerful voice for the path forward in Gaza, where Hamas must be fully removed from power so it can never threaten Israel again. If confirmed, I will work to strengthen and expand the Abraham Accords with our Moroccan partners.

Distinguished Senators, thank you again for your time. My family and I have been blessed in so many ways, and we owe so much to the United States of America. If you honor me with this confirmation, I pledge to give my all to strengthen and advance the partnership with our long-term and unwavering friend, Morocco. I welcome your comments, questions, and a continued relationship. Thank you, and God Bless America.