

Statement of John Giordano
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
July 29, 2025

Chairman Hagerty, Ranking Member Murphy, and distinguished Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you as President Trump's nominee to serve as the first political United States Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia in decades. I am deeply honored by the trust and confidence President Trump has once again placed in me, and I am grateful for the support of Secretary Rubio. If confirmed, I will advance the President's agenda with resolve, uphold American sovereignty, and deliver results that strengthen our nation's position globally.

I am also thankful to Senator Hagerty for his generous introduction and enduring friendship.

I would like to recognize my parents, Frank and Dorothy Giordano, whose presence here today reflects the foundational values they instilled in me—faith, discipline, hard work, and an unwavering commitment to public service.

Public service is deeply rooted in my family's legacy. As a 12th-generation American whose maternal ancestors arrived in Pennsylvania in 1682 and served in every American war through World War II, I was raised to prioritize country above self. That legacy—and my own experience as a federal prosecutor—cemented a lifelong commitment to the law, justice, and the principle that America must always lead.

Namibia represents an extraordinary opportunity for the United States. It is a young democracy, rich in resources and potential, and governed by a new administration that shares many of our key priorities: transparency, rule of law, private investment, and strategic independence. Working together, our

nations can forge a modern partnership that drives shared prosperity and security.

As such, if confirmed, I will lead our Mission in Windhoek to advance President Trump's America First policy priorities to ensure that America is the preferred partner for Namibia:

First, I will pursue peace through strength, protecting our interests and safeguarding our citizens abroad. More than 30,000 American tourists travel to Namibia each year, and their safety is not just a priority—it is a core responsibility of the U.S. Mission. If confirmed, I will ensure that our consular operations remain vigilant, responsive, and fully aligned with the State Department's highest mission: protecting the lives and welfare of Americans wherever they may be in the world.

Second, I will promote commercial diplomacy. Namibia is well-positioned to serve as a springboard for American commerce across Africa. If confirmed, I will make it a top priority to expand bilateral trade, champion American businesses, and work with Namibian leaders to foster a business climate grounded in fair competition. In short, I will reinforce American leadership in a region where our values and investments must remain paramount.

Third, I will prioritize energy and resource security. Namibia is home to significant reserves of critical minerals. It is on track to become the world's second-largest producer of uranium and a top-15 global oil producer by 2035. U.S. companies are already establishing a presence in Namibia's oil and gas sector. If confirmed, I will work to expand that footprint. Strengthening American leadership in energy and critical mineral supply chains is essential to our national security and industrial competitiveness.

I never shy away from difficult conversations. As I've learned throughout my career, candor and conviction are essential to building a foundation of trust, promoting accountability, and advancing enduring partnerships.

At the Department of Energy, the Department of Justice, and the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, I fought to advance U.S. interests and protect American citizens—from advancing U.S. energy security priorities to countering human trafficking, terrorism, and transnational corruption. I never wavered in defense of American principles.

As a federal prosecutor, I had the honor of standing on the front lines of justice—ensuring public safety, upholding the rule of law, and ensuring that those who threatened our security were held accountable. There is no greater professional reward than ending each day knowing you’ve made the world a safer, more just place. That experience also taught me that while justice may require firmness, leadership demands diplomacy. Strategic engagement, clear communication, and respect for different perspectives are instruments of strength. These tools have enabled me to build trust, defuse tensions, and drive outcomes in complex, high-stakes environments.

If confirmed, I will bring that same resolve, focus, and discipline to my service as Ambassador. I will lead the Mission with strength, purpose, and humility, always seeking to protect American interests, promote prosperity, and project the values that define our great nation.

Distinguished Senators, thank you for the extraordinary privilege of appearing before you today. If confirmed, it will be the honor of a lifetime to once again serve the United States of America.

Thank you again. I welcome your questions.