

Opening Statement for Mayor Bill Bazzi
Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

September 3, 2025

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the privilege to appear before you today. I am deeply honored by the trust President Trump and Secretary Rubio have placed in me.

When I arrived in America at the age of 12, I had no formal education. My journey wasn't easy, but it eventually led me to the U.S. Marine Corps, where I honorably served 21 years and where I learned the value of discipline, resilience, and service.

Today, I'm deeply grateful for the opportunities America has provided me, and I see my path as a testament to the strength and potential of this country. The Marine Corps not only shaped me into a stronger individual but also reinforced the idea that with hard work and dedication, no challenge is too difficult to overcome. From the cutting-edge innovation at Boeing to the legacy of excellence at Ford Motor Company, and now as mayor serving my community with pride and purpose, I've built a life rooted in leadership, dedication, and a deep commitment to progress. My story is not just my own, it's the story of what's possible in America when perseverance meets opportunity, and I've made it my mission to give back in gratitude for all that this nation has helped me achieve.

President Trump and Secretary Rubio have articulated a clear vision for U.S. foreign policy, emphasizing the importance of making America safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

If confirmed, these principles would be the cornerstone of our approach to Tunisia, but my foremost priority would be ensuring the safety and security of Americans living in and visiting Tunisia. This commitment is unwavering.

The United States seeks a productive and mutually beneficial relationship with Tunisia, one that fosters cooperation on commercial opportunities, eliminates threats, and projects stability in the region. I am eager to build on over 200 years of friendship with Tunisia to advance our shared interests, including countering

terrorism, containing illegal immigration, and forging enduring economic and cultural ties.

To that end, if confirmed, I would seek a mutually beneficial partnership with Tunisia and ensure every dollar the United States invests in Tunisia yields a significant return on investment. And if confirmed, I would promote open markets for U.S. companies and products, and strengthen the economic linkages between Tunisians and Americans.

I also understand the challenges Tunisia faces. If confirmed, I commit to engaging Tunisians from across the political and economic spectrum to understand their aspirations, their plans for moving their country forward to greater prosperity, and identifying areas where we can work together in our mutual interests. My priority would be a respectful and constructive dialogue with Tunisian counterparts to advance U.S. policies.

Tunisia is a remarkable country that I have had the pleasure of visiting multiple times throughout my career, both as a mayor and in the private sector. Its vibrant society and people hold enormous potential. I am excited by the prospect of meeting and working with Tunisians from across the government, private sector, and civil society to advance our shared interests.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee, for this opportunity. If confirmed, I look forward to leading the team of professionals at our Embassy and working with Congress to make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous.