

Opening Statement of John McIntyre
Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to Malawi
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
September 24, 2026

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. I am honored by the trust President Trump and Secretary Rubio have placed in me with this nomination.

I would not be here today without the support of my family. My parents, Curt and Midge McIntyre, instilled in me, as well as my sisters, Catherine and Courtney, the value of service, especially to our great nation. My Foreign Service career brought me to Kosovo, where I met my amazing wife, Flora Zylfijaj. Flora, along with her parents, Ruzhdi and Fatime Zylfijaj, embody perseverance and grace. Flora and I strive to follow the excellent examples our parents set with our own children, Emma and Ian.

I have been privileged to serve 27 years in the Foreign Service and over a third of my career as a Charge d' Affaires or Deputy Chief of Mission at our embassies in Brunei, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Vietnam. If confirmed, I will utilize my experience and expertise to lead and mentor the outstanding team at U.S. Embassy Malawi.

Under President Trump, the United States and Africa are entering a new era of cooperation. We are resetting our relationships from those based on aid towards trade, investment, and mutual benefit. If confirmed, I believe I can translate that vision into tangible results in Malawi.

The country offers opportunities to strengthen U.S. supply chains for critical minerals. Malawi holds the world's largest known rutile deposit, the second largest known graphite deposit, and substantial reserves of rare earths and uranium - resources essential to American manufacturing and national security. If confirmed, I will facilitate increased U.S. investment in Malawi across sectors, building on the success of recent deals involving U.S. and U.S. aligned firms.

This is an important moment for U.S. - Malawi bilateral relations. Malawi's President Arthur Peter Mutharika has made clear he wants his government to partner with the United States to advance commercial interests.

A January 2026 landmark health memorandum of understanding, being implemented under the America First Global Health Strategy, is protecting both American and Malawian lives while demanding accountability and co-investment from Malawi. Malawi has made huge gains in the fight against HIV/AIDS because of U.S. foreign assistance, making America safer and stronger.

If confirmed, protecting American citizens and deepening our commercial ties will guide me. I will work to open doors for American companies, and ensure that Malawi's mining, energy, and infrastructure sectors are supported by American investment, not by our competitors who play by their own rules.

The United States and Malawi share many opportunities for cooperation. If confirmed, I would work diligently to advance American interests, uphold American values, and strengthen a relationship that can deliver benefits for both our nations. I look forward to your questions.