Statement of Wesley Hunt
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
November 10, 2026

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of the Committee:

I am honored to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to serve as United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I am profoundly grateful to President Trump for his confidence in me and thank the Committee for considering my nomination.

Service runs in my family's blood. My immediate family represents more than 60 years of combined military service to our nation. I am a proud graduate of West Point, a combat veteran, and a former Army Apache helicopter pilot who flew 55 combat missions over Baghdad. I also had the distinct honor of serving two tours of duty in Saudi Arabia as a military diplomatic liaison officer, working directly with our Saudi partners. Those experiences shaped my understanding of the Kingdom, the importance of our strategic alliance, and the enduring value of American leadership. They reinforced a principle that has guided my life: service to our country is not simply a responsibility. It is a privilege.

Under President Trump's leadership, we have a historic opportunity to deepen the U.S.-Saudi partnership, strengthen American security, advance our economic and energy interests, confront common adversaries, and build a more peaceful Middle East through American strength. The Administration will continue to work toward regional integration building upon the Abraham Accords framework.

Ever since President Franklin Roosevelt met with King Abdulaziz aboard the USS Quincy in 1945, the U.S.-Saudi relationship has been a cornerstone of regional security and prosperity.

If confirmed, I will build upon this 80-year partnership, deepen trade and investment, and advance America's strategic interests.

President Trump has been clear: we are committed to the security and prosperity of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region. Our partnership is grounded in trust, strength,

and shared interests. Together, we must counter Iranian aggression, secure freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, bolster the Kingdom's capabilities to defend its territory and critical infrastructure against regional threats, support stability across the region, and dismantle Iranian proxy networks.

Our combined military, economic, and diplomatic efforts have helped degrade Iran's capabilities.

Our bilateral relationship was reinforced by President Trump's May 2025 visit to Riyadh and his November 2025 hosting of Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman in Washington. These engagements produced a $1 trillion Saudi investment commitment in the United States and expanded cooperation in defense, artificial intelligence, critical minerals, science, and education.

These agreements put America first by strengthening our economy, reinforcing American leadership, and creating opportunities for American businesses.

Saudi Arabia continues to bear the consequences of Iranian aggression. We must chart a path forward together through a whole of government approach that restricts Iran's access to the global economy and through defense cooperation that strengthens regional stability.

Our defense ties remain strong, and the United States remains the Kingdom's partner of choice. President Trump's designation of Saudi Arabia as a major non-NATO ally and the Strategic Defense Agreement will strengthen regional deterrence, expand burden-sharing, and create opportunities for American defense firms. The President's approval of a major defense sales package, including future F-35 deliveries, will strengthen America's defense industrial base and ensure Saudi Arabia continues to buy American.

If confirmed, I will work to implement these initiatives, expand Saudi investment in the United States, and deliver tangible results for the American people.

Above all, my highest priority will be the safety and security of American citizens, including those living, working, and traveling in Saudi Arabia, and our diplomatic personnel under Chief of Mission authority in Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dhahran. As a

soldier, I understood the sacred responsibility of protecting those entrusted to my care. As Ambassador, I will carry that same responsibility every day.

My family has devoted more than six decades to defending this nation and advancing U.S. interests. I would be deeply honored to continue that legacy of service in a country where I have already proudly served in uniform.

God bless President Trump, God bless our men and women serving around the world, and God bless the United States of America.