Statement of Paul Kalmbach Sr.
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Paraguay
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
November 10, 2026

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as the President's nominee to serve as the next United States Ambassador to the Republic of Paraguay. I am deeply honored that President Trump has placed his confidence in me by nominating me, and I am grateful to Secretary of State Marco Rubio for his leadership and support throughout this process.

I would also like to recognize my wife, who is with me today. Cheryl's unwavering support and sacrifice have made every chapter of my career possible.

I am grateful as well to Representative Jordan, Representative Latta, Senator Moreno, Senator Husted, and Vice President Vance whose friendship and encouragement have shaped my commitment to public service.

I come to this role from the private sector, not government service, having led an American family business in animal nutrition and agricultural feed. My career has been shaped by Christian faith, stewardship, and philanthropy, including corporate initiatives to serve communities in need.

If confirmed, I will draw on that experience to advance a strategic partnership that makes America safer, stronger, and more prosperous. Paraguay is one of America's strongest allies in the Western Hemisphere. Under President Trump, our strategic partnership now covers security, trade and investment, and civil nuclear cooperation, and together we're confronting the transnational criminal and terrorist networks that threaten both our nations as we build a safer, more prosperous hemisphere.

To advance that partnership, I will focus on four priorities:
(1) security cooperation to fight Foreign Terrorist Organizations and narcotraffickers;
(2) trade and commercial ties with America's private sector;
(3) countering the malign influence of our strategic adversaries; and
(4) cooperation to end mass and illegal migration to the United States.

If confirmed, I will pursue these priorities strategically, using the expertise of my team and tools across the interagency.

First, I will support Paraguayan efforts to strengthen border security and deepen law enforcement cooperation to combat transnational criminal organizations and foreign terrorist organizations operating in the region.

Second, the National Security Strategy prioritizes commercial diplomacy. I will advance trade and commercial ties with Paraguay by working collaboratively to strengthen its regulatory framework, improve protections for U.S. investors, and promote greater opportunities for U.S. businesses. I will champion trusted, secure digital infrastructure as Paraguay develops 5G and other ICT networks, works toward its potential as a regional Super Intelligence hub, and promote U.S. energy, agriculture, and trade that benefit workers in both countries.

Third, I will push back against adversarial influence in Paraguay that threatens Paraguay's sovereignty and U.S. interests.

Fourth, I will partner with Paraguay to end illegal immigration in the hemisphere. Paraguay has shown leadership on this issue already. If confirmed, I will continue to work with the Paraguayan government to facilitate lawful removals and to encourage Paraguay to use its influence to urge others in the region to improve cooperation with the United States in this area.

Finally, I will approach this mission with humility and accountability, working closely with Congress, the Embassy team, and our Paraguayan partners. Guided by faith and a commitment to service, I will represent American values, protect U.S. citizens, and strengthen the ties between our peoples.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today; I would be honored to answer your questions.