Statement of Dino LaVerghetta
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
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Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to be the next U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait. I would like to thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for the confidence they have placed in me.

With me today are the people at the center of my life: my wife, Rose, who has been my partner and best friend since we were teenagers, and our two daughters, Evelyn, who is twelve, and Ella-Rose, who is eight. I would not be at this table without them.

Before I turn to Kuwait, allow me a brief word about how I came to be here. My story would not be possible in any other country. My father was an Italian immigrant, and I was raised by a single mother who struggled to make ends meet. My late mother gave me everything she could: unconditional love and a promise that, in America, anything is possible through hard work and determination. She was right. Against all odds, I went on to serve at the highest levels of American business and government — including serving in the Office of the White House Counsel during both of President Trump's terms and serving as a partner at one of the world's leading international law firms. My years in public service were the most fulfilling work of my life, and they are what inspired me to ask to serve again — this time representing, overseas, the country that made my story possible. I owe this nation everything, and if confirmed I will be its most fervent champion.

Kuwait and the United States share a sixty-five-year partnership—– our consulate opened in 1951 and our embassy in 1961 — but its heart was forged in 1991, when America helped liberate Kuwait in Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

This October, we unveiled the Desert Shield and Desert Storm Memorial, built with Kuwait as a testament to that shared sacrifice. Kuwait has stood with us ever since — hosting our forces for more than three decades and keeping faith with us even under direct Iranian fire this year. If confirmed, I would be honored to sustain that partnership.

Our security partnership is the heart of this relationship, and this year it proved its worth. Kuwait hosts a major contingent of American forces, and when Iranian drones and missiles struck Kuwaiti soil — an egregious violation of Kuwait's sovereignty and a threat to its people — American and Kuwaiti forces met them

side by side. Secretary Rubio's visit in June underscored that the United States stands with Kuwait now and beyond. If confirmed, my first and utmost priority will be the safety of our mission and the Americans in Kuwait, and I will keep Kuwait a reliable platform for American diplomacy.

Our partnership encompasses more than defense and security. Kuwait remains vital to global energy markets, but our economic relationship also extends well beyond oil. Two-way trade already exceeds $5 billion, with a strong American surplus, and the Kuwait Investment Authority invests much of its roughly $1 trillion here in the United States. If confirmed, I will be a relentless advocate for American businesses and workers — opening doors for our exporters and welcoming Kuwaiti capital that creates American jobs. And I will work to strengthen and advance U.S. economic and strategic interests: when Kuwait builds its critical infrastructure, it should turn to America. From defense to construction, America has proven that it is Kuwait's most reliable partner.

The ties that bind us are not only strategic; they are human. Thousands of Kuwaitis study at American universities each year and return home with lasting affection for our country and our people. And the American service members who rotate through Kuwait — many from your own states — carry the best of America with them: its strength, its decency, and its resilience. If confirmed, I would be proud to represent them, and all Americans, every day.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the career State Department staff at our embassy in Kuwait. This has been an extraordinarily hard year for the mission. The staff kept the embassy going through disruption and danger, often thousands of miles from their families. They are the backbone of our mission and true patriots. The best way to honor their sacrifice is to match their commitment. If confirmed, I will give them everything I have — devoting my all to the safety and success of our people and the strength of this critical partnership.

It is my honor to appear before you and I look forward to your questions.