

Statement of Melissa Argyros
Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
November 19, 2025

Chairman Risch, Senator Shaheen, and Distinguished Members of the Committee, it is an honor and privilege to appear before you today. I am honored to be the nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, and I thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for their confidence in me.

I would like to begin by recognizing those who have made it possible for me to be where I am.

I want to thank my family and friends who continue to support me in every imaginable way. I want to particularly thank my parents who taught me the value of hard work, as well as the beauty of a giving heart, and the importance of service and humility.

Growing up, I witnessed my parents build a successful business, while also learning how to turn that success into a vehicle to lift up neighbors and communities in ways that can change and save lives. They both grew up in poverty, and through their hard work attained the American dream. My father served as U.S. Ambassador to Spain and Andorra after 9/11, and I was able to watch his diplomacy in action during a difficult time.

Professionally, I have spent many years working in our family real estate and investment company and I am grateful to the people who have dedicated their lives to making our company a success. They are like family to me.

I currently run our family foundation. We support programs that focus on health care, education, youth development and the arts. I am inspired by the tireless efforts of the people working in these institutions, and their commitment to making the world a better place. If confirmed, I look forward to working with a similar team of dedicated and committed individuals at the U.S. Embassy in Riga.

As I reflect on the opportunity to serve as Ambassador, I am reminded of the words of Henry Kissinger, a close friend of my father's, who said, "No foreign policy - no matter how ingenious - has any chance of success if it is born in the minds of a few and carried in the hearts of none." If confirmed, I look forward to the chance to advance American foreign policy and connect it to the Latvian people so that the benefit of our shared values can have a real and tangible meaning in this very critical region.

If confirmed, my priorities as Ambassador will focus on three key areas:

My first priority will always be to ensure the safety and security of U.S. citizens in Latvia.

My second priority will be to counter threats to our common security. Latvia has been an excellent partner and ally to the United States, and our relationship of 103 years is based on our shared goals, interests, and values. As a NATO Ally, Latvia has not only heeded, but amplified President Trump's call for Europe to do more in its own defense. Latvia is an outstanding host to our troops, and Latvian soldiers have served beside U.S. soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Balkans. Latvia is tough on border security, partnering with the United States to repel illegal immigration and safeguard both of our countries. And it shares U.S. concerns about China's record of economic coercion. If confirmed, I will work with the Latvian government to strengthen our security partnership and support the peace through strength that President Trump has called for.

My third priority will be to improve the depth of the U.S. economic relationship with Latvia to benefit both our peoples. Economic stability and prosperity are key components of security, and we have an opportunity to build our current trade relationship into an engine of growth. Latvian entrepreneurs have built companies that provide jobs for U.S. citizens throughout the United States. Additionally, Latvia, along with its Baltic neighbors, ended its energy dependence on Russia and is working with the

United States to obtain a stable supply of energy options to keep the economy moving, including U.S. liquified natural gas and diesel.

If confirmed, I am excited to partner with Congress to further U.S. interests and priorities in Latvia. I would look forward to working with the talented staff at Embassy Riga to build on their successes and advance these shared goals, as a team. And I eagerly anticipate hearing from people across Latvia, deepening people-to-people ties as we work towards these priorities and share the things we love most about our cultures, building a world that is safer, more secure, and more prosperous.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I look forward to your questions.