

**Pamela Bates**  
**Nominee as Representative of the United States of America**  
**to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of**  
**Ambassador**

**Testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**May 21, 2019**

Chairman Rubio, Ranking Member, and distinguished Members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations:

It is an honor and a privilege to appear before you today as the nominee to serve as the Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the OECD. I deeply appreciate the trust and confidence placed in me by President Trump and Secretary Pompeo by nominating me for this responsibility.

On personal note, and as a prior member of the career foreign service, I would like to thank the many family members, friends and colleagues who have encouraged me in my journey which has led to this room today. I would like to thank my husband and son for adapting to and making the most of serving overseas with the Department of State. I would especially like to thank our son, who bravely attended new schools, sometimes in a foreign language – and who skillfully and diplomatically enjoys correcting my French pronunciation. I would also like to acknowledge my family members who could not be here today, many of whom served our wonderful country. My two grandfathers, who fought in World War I and my uncles who fought in World War II and Korea, my two grandmothers and my aunts who worked tirelessly on the home front, my father, a proud graduate of the United States Naval Academy, and my mother, the first person that I know of in my family to endeavor to take the foreign service exam. I would also like to thank my brother, and his family, who are currently serving with the United States Marine Corps. My family, and especially my parents, instilled in me a deep appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy as citizens of the United States, as well as the duty to serve our country. Finally, I would also like to thank many friends and colleagues, some of whom are here today. You have helped me to be a better diplomat and, if confirmed, representative of our great nation.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that my life experience - including more than two decades of experience with the Department of State - has prepared me well to take on this challenge.

As a Foreign Service Officer, I devoted most of my career to advancing U.S. economic interests across the globe. From working to secure greater access to international markets for U.S. firms, to supporting energy security and promoting U.S. trade and investment, I have gained a deep understanding of the intersection between government and the private sector, and the role international organizations can play in advancing U.S. interests. Through my work at the OECD, the International Energy Agency and the World Trade Organization, I have worked with like-minded countries to build support for policies that benefit the United States. I have also spent time in the private sector, an experience that will be valuable to ensuring that private sector perspectives inform the work of U.S. Mission to the OECD.

Since its founding in 1961, the OECD has played a unique role among international organizations as a valuable source of market-friendly, evidence-based research and policy advice. Through economic analysis, peer reviews and development of policy standards, the OECD encourages sound economic policies that support sustainable economic growth and open markets for U.S. trade and investment. The OECD also serves as a platform to convene like-minded governments to cooperate on approaches to common challenges. It provides a venue where networks of regulators and government officials agree on market-enhancing rules on export credits, anti-bribery, sovereign wealth funds, international investment and competition policy. This work helps to promote U.S. job creation and expand legitimate international investment, financing and trade opportunities for U.S. business.

The National Security Strategy calls on international organizations to be more accountable. If confirmed, I will work with other member countries to make the OECD accountable, transparent, member-driven, and cost-effective. I will advocate for improving the OECD's working methods to ensure member-driven prioritization, increase efficiency and improve management practices to bring the OECD to the forefront of leading international organizations.

If confirmed, I will press the OECD to focus on its core work of improving the functioning of markets and of governments, encouraging fair and efficient systems of taxation, competition and investment; reinforcing mechanisms for combating corruption; and promoting the openness, integrity, and transparency of business and governments. I will ensure that the OECD's leadership responds to members' concerns rather than pursues its own agenda.

Over the past 50 years, the OECD has expanded its membership from the original 20 countries to 36. It is currently considering additional members. We need to proceed carefully to support qualified candidates without undermining the core work of the OECD. The OECD derives its global relevance not from universal membership but from the quality and impact of its policy instruments and best practice recommendations.

If confirmed, I look forward to consulting with this Committee and its staff, both here in Washington and during the visits of congressional delegations to Paris.

I thank the Committee for this opportunity to appear today. If confirmed, my primary goal will be to leverage our participation in the OECD to advance U.S. economic interests. I would be happy to answer your questions.