

Statement of Manisha Singh
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Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Tariff Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy and the International Economy
July 12, 2018

Chairman Corker, Ranking Member Menendez, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today regarding “*Tariff Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy and the International Economy.*”

The Department is grateful for the partnership we have with the members of this committee and your staffs. The Trump Administration is committed to ensuring that American workers, farmers and companies have every opportunity to compete and succeed in the global arena. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this common goal.

President Trump’s National Security Strategy declares that Economic Security is National Security. We are working to safeguard both economic security and economic prosperity for the American people.

We have over 1500 economic officers posted in embassies and consulates in over 190 countries as well as in Washington who explain our policies to foreign governments and enlist their support of our goals. Our Ambassadors and senior officials meet with the leaders and ministers of our partners to highlight areas of continued shared interest, and they advocate directly for U.S. companies.

The Department works in coordination with our colleagues at USTR, Commerce and other agencies to ensure that we are in close contact with our allies to explain the Administration’s trade policies.

We have heard concerns and questions from some of our allies and trading partners about our policies and we have engaged with them proactively to understand their issues. We have made addressing their concerns about our international trade policy a part of our larger conversation with them.

The Department is clear with our allies that we continue to have shared interests with countries around the world from countering terrorism to the denuclearization of North Korea. We emphasize that our combined efforts are required make the world a more just, safe, and prosperous place.

A key area in which allies and partners share our frustration is responding to the challenge of China's economic aggression. We are building an international coalition to address China's state-led policies which distort markets, discriminate against international competition, force technology transfer and permit theft of sensitive intellectual property.

The Department is committed to utilizing all available tools to increase economic security, promote greater opportunity and build constructive global relationships.

We are also working to attract foreign direct investment-- greenfield investment-- which will benefit our workers. Last month, Secretary Pompeo joined four other Cabinet secretaries and 15 of our Ambassadors to welcome international businesses to the Select USA Summit and emphasized the President's message that America is open for business.

Under the leadership of Secretary Pompeo, we are focused on economic diplomacy in the interest of the American people.

Thank you again for holding this hearing on this important topic. I look forward to your answering your questions.