

Statement of David T. Fischer
Nominee to the U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
August 22, 2018

Presiding Member Young, Ranking Member Merkley, Distinguished Members of the Committee:

I am honored to appear before you today as President Donald J. Trump's nominee to serve as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco. First, I would like to express my profound thanks to the President and the Secretary of State for the confidence they have placed in me and for this opportunity to represent our country.

Presiding Member Young, I know that you and the Members of this Committee have a profound dedication to serving the American people and representing American interests across the globe. The opportunity – with your consent and approval – to work with you and your colleagues, Secretary of State Pompeo, and the devoted members of the State Department on behalf of the President is both humbling and invigorating.

I am strengthened every day by the love and support of my family – including my wife Jennifer who is here with me today and will join me on this journey – and my sons David, Jr., Zachary and Jeffrey, all of whom I could not be more proud of. Together, we have championed countless causes related to social, civic and community well-being. I have dedicated my career to developing our business across the United States and Canada. Today, my company – founded nearly 75 years ago by my father--employs more than 3,400 employees. Such lifelong endeavors will serve this country well should I be confirmed.

Morocco is one of our oldest allies and, as you know, our Treaty of Peace and Friendship with Morocco, ratified in 1787, is the longest unbroken treaty relationship in U.S. history. Our friendship and continued economic, political, and security collaboration are vital and must be strengthened.

With my business background, I appreciate the tremendous opportunities for trade as exports from the U.S. to Morocco have tripled in recent years. Morocco, one of the few countries with which we have a free trade agreement, is also a gateway for U.S. companies to enter other markets. If confirmed, I would work closely with this Committee, as well as relevant departments and agencies, to expand opportunities for U.S. businesses.

I also understand that no position is without its challenges. While the unwavering resolve of the men and women of our military continues to protect our nation and

the world against the Islamic State and other terrorist organizations, our fight continues. The United States and Morocco stand firm in advancing religious freedom and rooting out violent extremism. Morocco is an active and capable partner, was one of the first African countries to join the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, and as co-chair of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, Morocco plays a global role in the fight against terrorism. If confirmed, I will seek to further strengthen our security cooperation with Morocco to protect U.S. interests in the region. I will support the United Nations' efforts to advance a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution that provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

Today, the United States confronts complex foreign policy challenges around the world. Morocco is a bridge—to Africa, to the Middle East, and to the Muslim world. Building a strong relationship with King Mohammed VI will be paramount as we strengthen our collaboration from a foundation of trust. If confirmed, I am confident that my experience—in building and strengthening strategic alliances; in cultivating and building commerce; in supporting and promoting community, social welfare, and human rights—will serve this Administration and the United States well. If confirmed, I will work with the government of Morocco to continue political reform and encourage further progress on human rights.

I understand fully that it would be my duty and privilege to work on behalf of the President, in lock step with the State Department and this Committee to represent the United States of America in advancing our interests and helping strengthen Morocco as a secure, prosperous, and vital ally of the United States of America.

Thank you, Presiding Member Young, and members of the Committee.