

**Statement of Edward T. McMullen, Jr.**  
**Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein**  
**Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**September 27, 2017**

Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Murphy, and Members of the Committee:

It is an honor and quite humbling to be with you today as the President's nominee to be the US Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Thank you for this opportunity to offer my thoughts and to answer any questions you may have.

There are many who have joined me in this journey and I would like to express my love and thanks to my wife of 28 years, Margaret Ann, who is here today--our two children, Thomas and Katherine are in Charleston and Los Angeles with career and college commitments, and my parents, in-laws, extended family and friends including my Hampden-Sydney College professors, all of whom selflessly inspired me in ways that made today possible..

I consider it a great privilege, if confirmed by the senate, to represent our country in Switzerland and Liechtenstein to articulate the President's and Congress' positions on pressing international issues, and foster, at every opportunity, improved diplomatic relations and deeper economic and cultural connections. Happily, in the case of Switzerland and Liechtenstein, we build on a strong foundation.

In 1995, I visited Switzerland for the second time, after being selected to be a part of the American-Swiss Foundation's young leaders program. I joined an accomplished group of young Americans and Swiss business and political leaders who inspired my interest and love for this impressive country and her people. The program was comprehensive, and participants interacted directly with Swiss businesses and the government – from the highest level CEOs to important government officials.

Please allow me to offer a few observations about Switzerland. Since I come from the private sector, I'll start with a private sector fact that I hope you will find as impressive as I do:

Switzerland is the seventh largest direct investor in the U.S., this from a country the size of Maryland and a population of 8 million. This one fact tells us a lot about Switzerland, not least of all that the Swiss have found a great formula for success. But this also tells us that Swiss companies are creating jobs in the U.S. and that there is extensive and mutually beneficial economic activity between our countries; I want to help build on that.

However, our ties are not only economic. Switzerland is a constitutional republic. Its constitution is modeled on ours. We share common values including respect for rule of law and the notion that government is responsible to the people. Switzerland is neutral, but is a natural friend because of the values and constitutional principles we share. To the extent there are areas of dispute and conflict, we share a common vocabulary for its resolution.

This is an area where the Swiss excel. In international relations, Swiss “good offices” have proved vitally important over and over. It is important the U.S. work closely with Switzerland in addressing a wide variety of international challenges.

One final observation--Switzerland is an acknowledged superpower in both applied and basic research. It's not an accident that the European nuclear research entity, CERN, and its Hadron collider, are located in Switzerland—or that the Swiss have shrewdly placed a research-centric consulate literally halfway between Harvard and MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts. If confirmed, I will work to build ever closer ties between the U.S./Swiss and Liechtensteiner research communities, particularly in promoting apprenticeships between our countries.

I recognize that a key role for the U.S. Ambassador is to explain American foreign policy as it is defined by the President. Part of doing that, if confirmed, will be to reach out and directly communicate with Swiss officials, business people, and citizens. I am confident my prior experience in public relations and communications will prove helpful and I commit to you that I will devote the time and energy necessary to mastering the details of my job. I also commit to ensure that, if confirmed, the concerns of this committee will be heard and respected.

Before closing, I would like to note that if confirmed, I will eagerly draw on the strength of the entire U.S. government, including the devoted officers of our U.S. Foreign Service and the many talented individuals representing multiple agencies of our federal government. While serving as part of our Mission in Switzerland, I would, if confirmed as Ambassador, endeavor to deepen our partnership so as to respond effectively to regional and global challenges.

I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve our great country in a new (and demanding) capacity. Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, thank you, and I would be pleased to respond to any questions.