

**STATEMENT OF DANIEL FOOTE
UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR-NOMINEE TO ZAMBIA
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
OCTOBER 3, 2017**

Chairman Flake, Ranking Member Booker, and Members of the Committee:

I am honored to appear before you as President Trump's nominee to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia. I am grateful for the confidence President Trump and Secretary Tillerson have placed in me. If confirmed, I will work with Congress to advance American interests in Zambia.

I want to express deep appreciation to everyone who helped me through this incredible journey. Please allow me to recognize and thank my beloved family, as my key source of inspiration through their indispensable support and incalculable sacrifice. Foremost is my wife Claudia, to whom I owe everything. I'm blessed to share this special moment with my children, Cecilia—here today with Claudia—and, if only via C-SPAN, with Danny, who is away at school. I hope you three are a fraction as proud of me as I am of you. And to my parents, Curt and Caroline, my siblings, and many mentors. I believe my diplomatic service, in diverse and increasingly challenging jobs in ten countries and the United States, provides me with a strong foundation to serve successfully as Ambassador, if confirmed. I expect my broad experience advancing human rights, democracy, security, development, education, and health will enable me to further American interests effectively.

I have great respect for the importance of diplomacy in protecting our nation and the American people by strengthening ties and partnerships. Zambia is a strong partner with which we share democratic values and goals of development, economic growth, and regional stability. If confirmed, Senators, I pledge to protect U.S. citizens and interests by energetically promoting democratic principles, broad-based economic growth and development, regional security, and improved health and education outcomes. Additionally, I commit to secure, develop, and lead the dedicated professionals, and their families, at Embassy Lusaka, and to protect all Americans in Zambia.

While Zambia carries a record of stable democratic transitions, it needs to maintain and advance its democratic achievements. I am concerned that, in recent years, we

have seen problematic media restrictions and treatment of opposition members. Such developments tarnish Zambia's democratic reputation. If confirmed, I will be a staunch advocate for human rights; the promotion of open and constructive dialogue among political parties, media, and civil society; and the equal inclusion of all citizens in democratic processes. I will also encourage Zambia to realize its potential as a regional democratic leader.

Zambia's eventual success in diversifying its economy from copper into sectors such as agriculture, energy, and tourism would create employment, reduce debt, enhance stability, and provide market opportunities for U.S. companies and investors. If confirmed, I will use all the tools of the U.S. government to enhance transparency and improve the operating environment for U.S. firms working in or with Zambia. I will work to increase U.S. trade and investment with Zambia, as the U.S. representative to the region's economic group, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA),

Reinforcing our existing partnership can help Zambia expand its role as a good neighbor in the region and as a positive, global actor. Supported by U.S. military training and assistance, Zambia has become a dependable peacekeeping contributor in the Central African Republic. Zambia has welcomed those fleeing conflict for decades, and it hosts an estimated 55,000 current and former refugees. If confirmed, I will cultivate Zambia's continuing efforts to advance regional and global stability.

Productivity and strong partnerships begin with healthy and engaged populations, and the United States' and Zambia's combined efforts have delivered impressive results. Our PEPFAR (the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) partnership investment in Zambia has saved millions of lives, and, since 2004, increased the number of Zambians with access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) from 3,500 to more than 800,000. As a result, Zambia is on track to achieve epidemic control of HIV/AIDS by 2020.

Additionally, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact with Zambia is providing \$355 million to improve the lives of over 1.2 million people, and support the government's efforts to improve water and sanitation services. If confirmed, I will continue to implement our assistance programs constructively and with accountability and ensure American taxpayers' funds are spent effectively. I will encourage increased efforts by the Zambian government to provide for its citizens.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman: if confirmed, my duty would be, first and foremost, to the American people. I promise to strive to lead an effective Embassy, protect and develop our people, and fortify U.S.-Zambia relations.

I thank you for the privilege of appearing before you today, and I welcome your questions.

