

**Statement of Edward Walsh**  
**Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, Members of the Committee:

It is an honor to come before you today as the nominee for the U.S. Ambassador to Ireland. I am deeply humbled by the confidence placed in me by President Trump in this nomination. If confirmed, I am committed to representing our country to protect, promote, and advance our interests in Ireland.

Throughout my career, I have been guided by a strong commitment to the American people and the principles at the foundation of our nation. In building my company from the ground up in New Jersey, I have seen firsthand what we can achieve when we commit to three noble goals: diligence, fairness, and dignity. I have had the privilege of being involved in several nonprofit organizations in my community and those three principles have guided me there, as well. If confirmed, those principles will be the bedrock of my role as Ambassador and our mission in Ireland.

Ireland holds a special place in the hearts of many Americans, including my own. The bonds between our two nations are woven from the threads of shared history, culture, and values. I hail from New Jersey, where more than a million people can trace their ancestry back to Ireland. Ten percent of our entire country has Irish heritage. As Ambassador, I will work to honor and strengthen these enduring ties, fostering a relationship that is as resilient as it is dynamic.

One of my foremost priorities will be to enhance the economic partnership between the United States and Ireland. Our bilateral trade and investment partnership is vital to the prosperity of both nations. Ireland has a population of five million people, yet it is the sixth largest source of foreign direct investment in the United States. If confirmed, I will endeavor to make that framework deliver even more for Americans. I will strive to support American enterprises and facilitate Irish investment in the United States. By championing innovation, entrepreneurship, and a fair shot for U.S. companies, we can forge a path to shared economic success and even greater prosperity.

In addressing the global challenges of our time, Ireland has been a steadfast partner. We work in lockstep on issues ranging from defense to health. I look

forward to working together to advance our common interests and goals and uphold the values we hold dear.

The rich tapestry of our shared heritage is a testament to the enduring friendship between our peoples. I am committed to expanding the cultural and educational exchanges that built the bedrock of these long-standing and enduring people-to-people connections. By promoting academic collaborations, cultural initiatives, and tourism, we can further strengthen the bonds of understanding and goodwill that unite us and achieve even greater things together.

Last year, we celebrated 100 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Ireland. The year before, we celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. And still, there is much work to be done. I would be grateful to begin our next century of partnership with Ireland, and set us on a path that rewards diligence, fairness, and dignity. I am fortunate that there is longstanding, broad, bipartisan support for our interests in Ireland. If confirmed, I will work to continue the long tradition of bipartisanship, not only when we exchange shamrocks in March, but throughout the year. I am also fortunate that I can exercise diplomacy from the green lawns of Ireland's golf courses.

Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee, I am deeply honored by this nomination and the opportunity to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Ireland. I stand ready to answer any questions you may have.