

Statement of Adam Cassady
Nominee for U.S. Ambassador At Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
April 16, 2026

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

It is a profound honor to be nominated by President Trump to serve as Ambassador at Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy. I am deeply grateful for the confidence of President Trump and Secretary Rubio. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this Committee to advance America's leadership in the digital age.

America is the world's leading technological power. We achieved that position not by accident, but through a simple and enduring formula: free enterprise, world-class research institutions, strong protection of intellectual property, free speech protection, limited and predictable regulation, and close collaboration between government and the private sector.

Economic security is national security. The digital infrastructure that underpins the global economy — from subsea cables and secure telecommunications networks to data centers, semiconductors, and satellites — is now as strategically significant as sea lanes, airspace, and energy routes were in earlier eras. Protecting and strengthening that infrastructure is central to preserving American power and prosperity.

We are living through a technological transformation that will fundamentally reorder the global economy. Artificial intelligence, advanced semiconductors, quantum computing, biotechnology, autonomy, robotics, related critical infrastructure, and next-generation telecommunications will shape productivity, military power, supply chains, and global standards for decades to come. The nation that leads in innovating, deploying, and securing these technologies will shape the rules of the international system deep into the 21st century. Our competitors are investing heavily, seeking to steal intellectual property, censor or limit free speech, dominate supply chains, and influence global regulatory standards in ways that advantage their systems and disadvantage ours.

If digital infrastructure is built on insecure foundations, if trusted vendors are displaced by coercive actors, or if global standards are written without respect for our values, we risk ceding strategic ground. That is unacceptable.

This is why cyber and digital diplomacy are indispensable tools of American statecraft.

The Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy – or CDP – plays a central role in aligning our diplomacy with our economic and security priorities. CDP works across the interagency and with America’s allies to secure supply chains, promote trusted technology, defend an open and interoperable Internet, and ensure international standards reflect democratic values and free enterprise principles.

Our diplomacy seeks to keep the global digital economy open for business, ensuring that the innovative engine of the global economy is protected — not constrained by discriminatory regulation, arbitrary data localization requirements, coercive trade practices, or insecure infrastructure dependencies. We must build coalitions of trusted partners who share our commitment to secure, resilient, and open digital ecosystems.

I am grateful to Congress for authorizing the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy and for your continued oversight and partnership. The stakes in this domain are enormous, and sustained bipartisan engagement is essential.

It would be the honor of a lifetime to serve in this role.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you. I look forward to your questions.