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Ambassador-designate to the United Arab Emirates
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you as the President's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. I am extremely grateful to President Obama and to Secretary Clinton for their confidence in me. If confirmed, I look forward to representing the American people, and to working with this Committee and other interested Members of Congress to advance U.S. goals in the UAE.

It has been an honor to serve as a Foreign Service Officer since 1985, mostly in the Arab World, and to use regional experience and the Arabic language in a wide variety of assignments. The Foreign Service brought my Foreign Service spouse, Mary Ellen Hickey, and me together. As a tandem couple we have been blessed to serve together in most of our assignments. My two children have learned much from living overseas and I am gratified to have my family, parents and extended family here in the audience today.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee: the UAE plays an influential and growing role in the Middle East, and is a key partner for the United States. The United States and the UAE enjoy strong bilateral cooperation on a full range of issues including defense, non-proliferation, trade, law enforcement, energy policy and cultural exchange.

As a member of the International Security Assistance Force, the UAE has had troops in Afghanistan since 2003. It has been a leader as current president of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Yemen mediation; participates in the Libya Operation Unified Protector; provided several million dollars in humanitarian aid to assist those affected by the Libyan crisis; contributed almost \$50 million in 2010 to rebuilding Afghanistan; and is a founding member of the Friends of Democratic Pakistan with over \$300 million in direct assistance.

Defense cooperation is a central pillar of our partnership and is reflected in regular bilateral strategic security discussions. The port of Jebel Ali in Dubai is the U.S. Navy's busiest overseas port-of-call and the UAE is our largest Foreign Military Sales cash customer. The UAE has actively participated in international operations to police the Gulf, and organized an international conference on countering piracy March 18-19 of this year.

In the area of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the UAE takes its international obligations seriously and has fully implemented international sanctions targeting Iran and North Korea for their pursuit of nuclear weapons. Our active dialogue with Abu Dhabi on these and other nonproliferation issues supports the enforcement of U.S. laws and most recently, in May, the UAE coordinated with us on the sanctioning of two UAE-based entities for supplying Iran with prohibited amounts of refined fuel. The UAE seeks to prevent use of its open trade environment to import and export items and funds that assist in the development of weapons of mass destruction and is implementing a comprehensive export control law to take action against non-complying companies. The UAE participates in the U.S. Export Control and Border Security program, hosts a bilateral Counter Proliferation Task Force, and is a member of the

multilateral Proliferation Security Initiative. The UAE's Nuclear Cooperation Agreement with the United States (signed in May 2009) is a positive example for the peaceful development of a nuclear energy program.

For the past two years the UAE has been the largest export market for U.S. goods in the Middle East, and 21st in the world. It has developed a leading role in business services, including finance and logistics, and has emerged as the preeminent business hub between Asia and Europe. Dubai's Emirates Airlines is the single largest customer for Boeing's 777 aircraft. With its infrastructure and business and logistical services, the UAE has become the regional headquarters for over 700 American companies active in the petroleum, defense, services, education, and health care sectors.

The U.S. is a partner in building UAE's law enforcement capabilities, particularly to counter money laundering and terrorist financing and to provide training to enable the UAE to disrupt illicit cash flows.

The UAE is also a partner on energy policy. Holding nearly eight percent of the world's proven oil reserves and nearly five percent of its proven gas reserves, the UAE joined other GCC states on June 8 in pushing for an increase in OPEC oil production. The UAE has sought U.S. assistance to pursue renewable energy and plays a leadership role on renewable energy technologies. Finally, on cultural and educational exchange, the UAE has partnered with major U.S. institutions such as the Guggenheim and New York University.

The U.S. works closely with the UAE on human rights, trafficking in persons, and the rights of women. The UAE is committed to the education of its people and is working to ensure that the female half of its citizenry receives a complete, high-quality education. This year, the UAE established a special court in Dubai to hear human trafficking cases and is taking steps to train its police and customs officials to aid trafficking victims. As these policies develop, we are continuing to work closely with the Emirati leadership to improve its response to forced labor, particularly among the foreign migrant worker population the country hosts. Finally, the UAE and the U.S. have maintained a productive dialogue throughout the recent historic changes brought about by the "Arab spring."

If confirmed as U.S. Ambassador I would work to see that the UAE's legitimate interest in trade with its neighbors is not put to inappropriate uses, especially with respect to Iran. I would work to continue to strengthen our trade partnership, promote U.S. exports and assist U.S. businesses using the UAE as a hub.

We have a clear dialogue with the UAE on the universal right of free expression and Secretary Clinton has demonstrated the priority we place on this with her Internet Freedom Initiative. If confirmed as Ambassador, I will continue to highlight our commitment to this principle in my work with our partners in the UAE.

At a U.S. mission comprising employees from 36 different U.S. government agencies and Departments, my first priority, if confirmed, would remain at all times protecting the safety and

security of the dedicated men and women at our mission as well as of all Americans living and working or traveling in the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, if confirmed, I would welcome your views and insights on the UAE and the region and welcome any questions you might have for me today. Thank you.