

Marcus D. Jadotte
Nominee - Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Analysis
International Trade Administration
US Department of Commerce

Chairman Rockefeller, Ranking Member Thune, and members of the Committee, I am honored by and grateful for your consideration to serve as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Analysis.

I would especially like to thank Senator Nelson for his leadership, his friendship over the years -- and for the warm introduction today.

I also want to acknowledge my wife Jennifer and our children Ashton and Sofia, who are with me here today. Jennifer and I both arrived in our country as children. She arrived from Seoul as a newborn and I arrived from Nassau as a fourth grader. We met as grad students at Florida State University and are both grateful for the opportunity to build our lives and family in this great country.

The opportunity to speak with you today on this panel of nominees is truly humbling. I am honored that President Obama and Commerce Secretary Pritzker believe that I can make a contribution to the work the United State Department of Commerce is doing to support American business, economic growth, and jobs. The Industry and Analysis team is perhaps the best kept secret in the federal government and I look forward to working with each and every member of that team, if I am confirmed.

I strongly believe in the value of public service, and if confirmed, I welcome the opportunity to combine my private and public sector experience to make a meaningful contribution to the Commerce Department's work.

As an executive at NASCAR, I managed a diverse staff, and oversaw a complex budget and high-profile projects. The skills I developed to be successful in that role are skills which are applicable to the role of Assistant Secretary for Industry and Analysis.

Additionally, at NASCAR, I was responsible for fostering relationships with key business partners, organizing community outreach -- and developing and implementing strategic plans to achieve results -- all important experiences that have helped prepare me for a leadership role at the International Trade Administration, should I be confirmed.

If confirmed for this position, I will oversee staff and initiatives that focus on strengthening the U.S. economy, and helping more companies export and create jobs. The staff at I&A have an array of skills and are specifically focused on helping U.S. manufacturing, services, tourism, textile, and consumer goods companies -- and most other industries increase their exports. I look forward to working with this experienced staff to help advance its goals and mission.

As I mentioned, I&A is comprised of offices focused on various sectors of our economy. These offices review, quantify, and develop strategies to strengthen the global competitiveness of American industries. During my career, I worked extensively with two of I&A's critical sectors: travel and tourism and automotive. I have a strong understanding of these industries and a history of working collaboratively with stakeholders in those fields, and I welcome the opportunity to bring that knowledge to the industry teams at ITA.

In my roles as chief of staff for two members of congress and as a special assistant at the Labor Department, I gained valuable insight into the legislative process and the operations of the federal government, all of which I believe will be helpful and called upon for the role to which I have been nominated.

Lastly, an effective leader must communicate a vision that colleagues and co-workers can understand and support -- to enable the organization to succeed -- and hold those responsible accountable for results. I believe that this approach is important to the success of an organization and I will work hard to meet this standard every day if I have the opportunity to serve in this position.

If confirmed, I will apply the experience I have gained as an executive and an administrator to ensure that I&A takes steps necessary to help our businesses contribute to the growth of the U.S. economy; remain focused on improving customer service; and, educating American businesses on all of the important services available to at the Department of Commerce.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to taking your questions.