

Statement of Paul M. Dabbar
Nominee For Deputy Secretary of Commerce
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
U.S. Senate
May 1, 2025

Thank you Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and members of the Committee. It is an honor to be here today. I am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Lutnick for their trust and confidence in me with this nomination to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

Joining me today is my wonderful wife of twenty-five years, Andrea. Our children Katie and Will are watching from their efforts at work and college. I greatly appreciate their past support when I was Under Secretary for Science. Also here today is my former boss, former Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette, and friends from my time in government, the Naval Academy, and the private sector.

If my nomination is confirmed by this body, it will be the fourth time that I will have the opportunity to swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution. The first time I was seventeen years old, after my appointment by former Senator Don Nichols, at Induction Day at the Naval Academy. The second time was when I was commissioned a Navy ensign. I joined the nuclear submarine force and had the honor to serve in many operations, including a deployment to the Arctic with the Arctic Research Laboratory, a team supported by NOAA. And my third time occurred when I was sworn in as Under Secretary.

Since my time in the Navy, my career has spanned investments, trade, science and technology. Recently, I helped start two technology companies, one in energy tech, and the other a spin out of Caltech in quantum. I stayed involved in public policy by regularly testifying before Congress, serving as a visiting fellow at Columbia

University, and as a contributor at the Wall Street Journal, the Hoover Institution and elsewhere.

During President Trump's first term, I was honored to serve as the fourth Under Secretary for Science at the Department of Energy, managing research and operations at the National Labs. During my tenure, I worked with many members on driving America forward on science & technology, and I led our robust environmental clean-up efforts from our nuclear weapons program. I was the lead on the exascale computing program, which led to four #1 global supercomputers, including ones that were completed ahead of schedule and under budget. I also led the National Quantum Initiative. And I broke through decades long issues on environmental management at Hanford and elsewhere, completing large nuclear projects, including several ahead of schedule and under budget. As Under Secretary, I worked extensively with Department of Commerce bureaus, including USPTO, NIST, NOAA and BIS.

Earlier in my career, I was a senior executive at J.P.Morgan, leading several hundred billion dollars in global investment, and helped lead efforts in global commodities trading in energy and critical minerals.

I am excited to join the Commerce Department, and my experience is well fit for this position. This is a very exciting time in the sectors covered by the Department. U.S. commercial competitiveness and trade are clearly front and center issues. Additionally, the science and technology efforts, including AI, semiconductors, quantum, intellectual property, the Blue Economy, and technology security are also at the forefront.

My significant experience across the scope of Department will enable me to help manage and lead its varied bureaus. From my experience in trade in the private sector, my maritime service and NOAA, my DOE technology security efforts and BIS, my science & technology background and NIST, and starting up a quantum communications company and NTIA, just to name a few. And I have deep

experience at managing large government efforts. All of these experiences have prepared me to take on this role.

And finally, I have the persistence to get things done and take on challenges of any magnitude. For example, I completed a 140.6 mile Ironman triathlon, and I am one of the few people ever who have been to both the geographic North and South Poles.

I was honored and humbled to receive wide support from the Senate for my last confirmation, including being confirmed by unanimous consent. Today, I humbly ask for every member's consideration and support for my nomination. Thank you and I look forward to answering your questions.