

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION**

Nominations
Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 10.00 A.M.

DEMOCRATIC QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD

COVER PAGE
Harry Kumar

RANKING MEMBER MARIA CANTWELL (D-WA)

Department of Commerce Responsiveness to Member and Committee Requests. Mr. Kumar, I am deeply frustrated by the Department's lack of responses to letters and other oversight requests my colleagues and I have sent this year. This includes a series of letters we have sent to various officials at the Department seeking information about the Minority Business Development Agency, which the Administration has tried to illegally dismantle.

I'm looking for clear commitments to assure me this is going to change if you are confirmed.

Question 1: Yes or No: Do you agree to provide fulsome and meaningful responses to all the letters my colleagues and I have sent the Department this year regarding MBDA?

Answer: *If confirmed, I will work with my colleagues at the Department to provide fulsome and meaningful responses to Congressional inquiries. With respect to MBDA, my understanding is that there is broad, active ongoing litigation that has limited the Department's ability to provide more detailed responses.*

Question 2: Yes or No: Do you agree it is unacceptable to ignore letters and requests from Democratic Members on this Committee?

Answer: *If confirmed, I will work with my colleagues at the Department to provide timely responses to members of this committee.*

Question 3: Yes or No: Do you believe the mere existence of litigation regarding a bureau or issue in the Department is adequate grounds to refuse to answer any questions from Congress regarding that bureau or issue? If yes, explain your position in full.

Answer: *I believe that communication with Congress and this committee is a key function of the position. Thus, if confirmed, I will make sure that I consult with our Office of General Counsel on what is permissible to be shared when litigation is ongoing.*

Question 4: Yes or No: Will you ensure that any accommodation the Department makes for majority staff, such as briefings or document productions, is likewise made available to minority staff?

Answer: *If confirmed, I will work to ensure all committee staff are provided relevant information in a timely manner.*

Question 5: Yes or No: Will you ensure the Department meaningfully responds to routine requests for briefings and technical assistance from my staff?

Answer: *If confirmed, I will work to ensure timely responses are a top priority, including for briefings and technical assistance.*

CHIPS and Science Act and Tech Hubs. There are several Department of Commerce programs established by the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act that are essential for rebuilding U.S. leadership in technology, strengthening economic and national security, and supporting regional workforce and supply chains. These include CHIPS manufacturing incentives, CHIPS R&D

initiatives, and Economic Development Administration regional technology and innovation hubs or “Tech Hubs.”

Based on the elimination of the EDA in the proposed budget and the Department’s decision in May to rescind \$210 million in funding for six Tech Hubs, I have serious concerns about the Administration’s commitment to these programs and to U.S. innovation leadership. This decision has introduced significant uncertainty and is halting the progress that Tech Hubs were making toward advancing innovation, workforce development, and economic growth in their respective regions. Greater transparency and regular communication with Congress are essential to restoring confidence in the CHIPS and Science implementation process.

Question 1: Yes or No: Do you commit to providing Congress with timely updates and early notification regarding decisions related to Tech Hubs, and to coordinating with Congress on plans and policies to maintain our technology and manufacturing competitiveness?

Answer: If confirmed, I will work with the relevant Department personnel to ensure the Department provides timely updates related to Tech Hubs and will work with Congress to ensure the U.S. remains the global leader in technological and manufacturing competitiveness.

Question 2: Yes or No: If the “Investment Accelerator” announced by Executive Order is expected to become a key focus of managing CHIPS and Science implementation, will you also commit to offering bipartisan briefings to this Committee on progress in establishing the office and its roles and responsibilities before making a public announcement?

Answer: If confirmed, I will ensure bipartisan briefings are offered on CHIPS and Science Act implementation and the Investment Accelerator Office.

SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR (D-MN)

The National Rural Export Center in Fargo, North Dakota assists rural small businesses with accessing international markets. By offering advanced data analytics, market navigation tools, and risk mitigation strategies, it helps level the playing field for small businesses to better compete globally.

If confirmed, will you commit to working with me and my staff to support the Rural Export Center to help rural businesses succeed in international markets?

Answer: If confirmed, I commit to working with you and your staff to ensure rural and small businesses are able to continue to succeed in international markets.

SENATOR TAMMY DUCKWORTH (D-IL)

The Department of Commerce's Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program is a crucial program to help strengthen the US industrial base by providing a number of services to small and medium-sized manufacturers. There is one center in each state and in Illinois, the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) leads a variety of initiatives to grow manufacturing, including supporting the development of quantum technologies in our State. IMEC has created and retained more than 7,000 jobs and assisted nearly 3,000 companies.

1. Mr. Kumar, are you aware that there is bipartisan support for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program?

Yes.

2. Mr. Kumar, do you commit to notifying Congress about any planned changes or adjustments to the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program?

If confirmed, I commit to providing timely updates to the Committee.

As the main conduit between Congress and the Department of Commerce, it is crucial that you take seriously your responsibility to communicate with Members of Congress, particularly members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

1. Mr. Kumar, do you commit to responding in a timely matter with substantive information relevant to a given issue, when I send you an official letter requesting a response?

If confirmed, I commit to responding in a timely manner when sent an official letter with the appropriate level of detail.

2. Mr. Kumar, do you commit to making yourself and your team available to Congressional staff via phone and email when we make inquiries of the Department, regardless of political affiliation?

If confirmed, I will make myself and the legislative affairs team available to congressional staff regardless of political affiliation.

3. Mr. Kumar, who will be the point person from your team that my office should reach out to for any inquiries? How many members of your team will be dedicated to working with Senate staff?

If confirmed, your team can reach out to myself or Will Turner, the current Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs. The entire legislative affairs team will devote themselves to working with both chambers.

4. Mr. Kumar, will you commit to supplying responsive data and documents when Congressional staff make requests to the Department?

If confirmed, I commit to working with my colleagues in the Department to provide the appropriate responsive data and documents.

1. Please answer with “yes” or “no”. Was President Biden certified as the winner of the 2020 presidential election because President Biden received more votes than President Trump in the 2020 presidential election?

Former President Joseph Biden was certified as the winner of the 2020 presidential election and sworn in as the forty-sixth President on January 20, 2021.

2. Please answer with “yes” or “no”. Did President Trump lose the 2020 presidential election?

Former President Joseph Biden was certified as the winner of the 2020 presidential election and sworn in as the forty-sixth President on January 20, 2021.

3. Please answer with “yes” or “no”. Did President Trump lose the popular vote in the 2020 presidential election?

Former President Joseph Biden was certified as the winner of the 2020 presidential election and sworn in as the forty-sixth President on January 20, 2021.

4. Please answer with “yes” or “no”. Did President Trump lose the electoral college in the 2020 presidential election?

Former President Joseph Biden was certified as the winner of the 2020 presidential election and sworn in as the forty-sixth President on January 20, 2021.

5. If you were unable or unwilling to provide a “yes” or “no” answer to any of the prior questions, please provide a detailed explanation justifying your refusal to provide such a clear and simple answer, including whether your refusal to provide a simple “yes” or “no” answer indicates that you believe President Trump received more votes than President Biden in the 2020 presidential election.

See my responses to questions 1-4 above.

The 14th Amendment states. “No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.”

1. Where were you on January 6, 2021?

I was in my apartment and was in no way involved with the events at the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

2. Do you believe the events at the Capitol on January 6, 2021, were an insurrection, a rebellion against the Constitution of the United States, or both—and if you do not believe the events that occurred at or

near the United States Capitol on that date comprised an insurrection or rebellion against the Constitution, please provide a detailed explanation explaining your belief.

This question is outside of the scope of my nomination to be an Assistant Secretary within the Department of Commerce.

3. Why did you choose to resign, or choose not to resign, from the White House on January 6, 2021, or in the following days?

I was not—and have never been—a White House employee. I did not resign on January 6, 2021 because I was committed to fulfilling my term with the Department of Commerce.

4. Do you support President Trump’s decision to “grant a full, complete and unconditional pardon to all other individuals convicted of offenses related to events that occurred at or near the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021”?

This question is outside of the scope of my nomination to be an Assistant Secretary within the Department of Commerce. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the President and this Committee.

5. Do you believe President Trump’s decision to “grant a full, complete and unconditional pardon to all other individuals convicted of offenses related to events that occurred at or near the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021” is consistent with supporting law enforcement?

The pardon power belongs to the President, but I have always rejected violence against law enforcement.