

Opening Statement of Steven H. Haines, Nominee for Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Analysis

Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and distinguished members of the Committee: It's an honor to be with you here today. I am grateful to President Trump for my nomination, and to Secretary Lutnick and Under Secretary Kimmitt for their confidence in me to serve as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Industry & Analysis. I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to Senator Hagerty for introducing me today. I'm incredibly fortunate to have his support and mentorship.

It is also an honor to introduce my incredible wife, Erica, who is sitting behind me. In our first year of marriage, she asked what I wanted to do with my life. I told her, "Be a good husband and father." She said that was the bare minimum and challenged me to aim higher. Her unwavering love and support continue to inspire me to do just that. Our first son, Henry, is also here. It is the privilege of my life to be his father and to have him by my side today. Henry's little brother, Oscar, has been on this planet a total of 12 weeks and decided to skip the hearing to stay home with his grandmother. My father-in-law, Guy Detrick, is here from Washington State, and one of my three sisters is also with me today—Heather Pray—who is accompanied by her husband and my best friend, Charlie Pray. My parents, Paul and Christy Haines, were unable to make the trip to Washington, D.C. today, but are proudly watching from their home in Franklin, TN. I inherited a tenacious work ethic and a drive for excellence from my father and a sense of conviction and faith from my mother. I will never be able to repay them for shaping me into the man I am today.

I grew up in Franklin, Tennessee in the '90s—the height of Pax Americana. I distinctly remember my mother driving me home from school one day, listening to the radio, and her explaining to me that America was the greatest country in the world. Even at a young age, those words filled me with a sense of pride, wonder, and expectation for the future. I felt incredibly lucky to be an American.

I carried that pride with me as I studied abroad and eventually started my career in the oil & gas industry in Asia. No matter where I traveled in the world, I always felt that there truly was no place like home.

In the early 2010s, I began to see the global economic and national security landscape shift. For the first time in my life, America's future did not feel guaranteed. Through the encouragement of my wife, I decided to leave the private sector and pursue a career in foreign policy and national security through public service. That journey led me to jobs at

the Department of State, the Pentagon, the United States Senate, and now the Department of Commerce.

The colleagues I have worked with, along with the experiences I have gained, have all culminated in the necessary preparation for this role.

For six months prior to my nomination, I had the privilege of preforming the duties of assistant secretary of Commerce for Industry and Analysis, learning the policies, portfolios, people, budget, contracts, and products within the office's jurisdiction. I feel a sense of pride and excitement to be presented with the opportunity to lead the organization in an official capacity.

I&A—as it is affectionately called by those who work there—is comprised of 23 offices that cover approximately 90% of the U.S. economy. Its dedicated staff—currently hovering just north of 190 people—are passionate professionals who engage in their work with expertise and a sense of mission.

In addition to leading the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) for the Department, I&A is also the only unit within the Department of Commerce that provides essential trade data and analytical support that feeds into a wide variety of trade policy workstreams and decisions.

In short, I&A continually punches above its weight, especially at a time when the global trading order is being rapidly reshaped to benefit the United States for decades to come.

If confirmed, my singular focus will be supporting American industry's competitiveness through robust understanding and analysis of sectors and supply chains, growing and improving I&A's analytical capabilities to better respond to the complex trade questions U.S. policymakers are facing, and empowering the professionals who work at I&A to engage in their work with a sense of mastery, autonomy, and purpose.

I look forward to working constructively with this Committee to that end.

Thank you. I look forward to your questions.