# Senate Commerce Committee Nominee Questionnaire, 117th Congress

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation asks you to provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is requested that the nominee type the question in full before each response. Do not leave any questions blank. Type "None" or "Not Applicable" if a question does not apply to the nominee. Return printed answers to Committee. Begin each section (i.e., "A", "B", etc.) on a new sheet of paper.

# A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used):

Alexander Dennis Hoehn-Saric (Alex)

2. Position to which nominated:

Chair and Commissioner, Consumer Product Safety Commission

3. Date of Nomination:

July 13, 2021

4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

Home:

Work:

2125 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

5. Date and Place of Birth:

June 2, 1969 Baltimore, Maryland

6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

Spouse:

Loren Mayor Chief Operating Officer World Wildlife Fund

Children:

7. List all college and graduate degrees. Provide year and school attended.

JD, UCLA School of Law, 1995

AB, University of Chicago, 1991

- 8. List all post-undergraduate employment, and highlight all managementlevel jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.
  - U.S. House Energy & Commerce Committee\* Chief Counsel, Communications and Consumer Protection, 2019 to present Chief Counsel for Subcommittee on Communication and Technology, 2018-2019
  - Charter Communications Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, 2013-2018
  - Federal Communications Commission, Policy Director (Office of Commissioner Rosenworcel), 2012-2013

Department of Commerce\* Deputy General Counsel for Strategic Initiatives, 2011-2012

U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation\* Senior Counsel for Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety and Insurance, 2010-2011 Counsel for the Subcommittee on Communications, 2008-2010 Counsel for Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs, Insurance and Automotive Safety, 2007-2008

Office of Senator Barbara Boxer, Counsel, 2005-2006†

Latham & Watkins, Associate, 1999-2005

Sullivan & Cromwell, Associate, 1996-1999

U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, Law Clerk to the Honorable Benson Everett Legg, 1995-1996

Jenner & Block, Paralegal Assistant, 1991-1992

\* Denotes management-level jobs

*†* Denotes non-management jobs that related to the position for which I am nominated.

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

Attached

10.List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above, within the last ten years.

None

11.List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution within the last ten years.

Senior Vice President, Charter Communications

12.Please list each membership you have had during the past ten years or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, you do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution.) Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

> DC Bar Association Role and tenure: Member, 1998 – present

VA Bar Association Role and tenure: Associate Member, 2001 – present Glen Echo Height Citizens' Association Role and tenure: Member, 2012 (est.) – present Description: Neighborhood association that organizes community events and shares local information. I have a general membership.

Mohican Swimming Pool Association Role and tenure: Member, 2013 (est.) – present Description: Neighborhood pool. I have a general membership.

Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) Role and tenure: Member of Board of Advisors, 2017-18 (est.) Description: MMTC is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting equal access and representation in tech, media, and telecommunications through opportunity creation, awareness building, and advocacy. As an employee of Charter Communications, I was designated to represent the company on MMTC's board of advisors.

Federal Communications Bar Association Role and tenure: I have been a member off and on over the past 10 years. I have no record of exact years. I am not currently a member.

No club or organization listed herein restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability.

13.Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, nonelected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

I have not been a candidate for or held public office.

14.List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.

Volunteer, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee phone banking effort (October 17, 2018)

Volunteer, Hillary Clinton, Tech & Innovation Policy Working Group, (summer-fall 2016)

Volunteer, Senator Pryor reelection campaign (fall 2014)

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$200 or more for the past ten years.

Attached

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

None

17.Please list each book, article, column, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. Also list any speeches that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Do not attach copies of these publications unless otherwise instructed.

I have not published books, articles, columns, or Internet blog posts.

In my capacity as a federal employee, while I have not given formal speeches, I have spoken on conference panels and to outside parties on a variety of matters, including consumer protection issues.

18.List all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the name of an "alias" or "handle" you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

> LinkedIn: Alexander Hoehn-Saric (active) https://www.linkedin.com/in/alexander-hoehn-saric-7851a265

Instragram: hoehnsaric (active)

Facebook: Alex Hoehn-Saric (dormant)

*Twitter:* @hoehnsaric (active) https://twitter.com/hoehnsaric?lang=en

Reddit: GrunkleStanley and hoehnsaric (active)

Clubhouse: Alex Hoehn-Saric (dormant)

19. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

None

20. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

If confirmed, my government background will serve me well. My career in government service has focused on consumer protection issues, including consumer product safety. I have had the privilege of working for and with Members of Congress in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate as the lead committee counsel responsible for the oversight of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), consumer product safety matters, and legislative efforts to reform the agency and address specific unreasonably dangerous products. As a result, I am extremely familiar with the issues and obstacles that the CPSC faces today.

As chief counsel for the U.S. House Energy & Commerce Committee, I meet with a wide range of stakeholders, including consumer groups, companies, associations, regulators, and individuals who have been personally harmed by consumer products. I lead a team that follows consumer product trends in the marketplace, examines agency resources, and considers the legal authority currently available to the CPSC. At the direction of the Chairman, I have organized

7

Congressional hearings, conducted oversight, and worked on legislation regarding consumer product safety matters.

My work at the Department of Commerce (Commerce) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) also help qualify me for the position. At the FCC, I worked with commissioners and staff to advance the mission of the agency. I learned the importance of working with closely with staff as well as the importance of building working relationships among commissioner offices. At Commerce, I worked to ensure that the department operated consistent with its legal authority while advancing its mission. I believe my experience in the executive branch, on Capitol Hill, and in an independent agency prepare me for the important work of the CPSC.

I am interested in serving on the CPSC because of the passion I have for consumer protection and product safety. I am dedicated to public service and the CPSC's mission to protecting consumers from unreasonably dangerous products. I deeply believe that my prior service and commitment to consumer protection provide me an important perspective on the challenges facing the CPSC. If confirmed, I hope to improve consumer product safety for all Americans and make a lasting impact on the CPSC.

21. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

If confirmed as Chairman, my role will be to ensure that the commission has proper management and accounting controls, including appropriate checks and transparency. I have experience working in large organizations, at independent agencies and in conducting oversight of government agencies so I understand the fundamentals of what is needed.

I will work with my fellow commissioners to ensure appropriate operational, financial oversight and reporting mechanisms are in place. My experience on Capitol Hill involved significant oversight of independent agencies, including the CPSC. I believe that this experience can be applied to the practical management of the CPSC. I fully understand the need for accountability and transparency in the management of an independent agency, which is authorized by Congress and supported by public funds.

22. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

I believe the top three challenges facing the CPSC are as follows:

1. The growth of online shopping for consumer products. There is an ongoing shift from the traditional model of retailers who buy and resell to consumers to the online sale of consumer products sold directly to consumers from manufacturers or through online shopping platforms. CPSC has a long history of working with brick-and-mortar retailers and manufacturers to effectuate recalls and prevent the sale of recalled products. Processes to effectively monitor online sales for unreasonably dangerous consumer products and effectuate recalls are still evolving in the online world. Sellers on online platforms are often based overseas and there is less accountability for the quality of the products. Moreover, because such sellers may ship directly to customers, it is more difficult for the CPSC to identify and stop unreasonable dangerous products from reaching consumers. It is estimated that e-commerce shipments regulated by CPSC will reach \$425 billion by 2023. The agency must have the tools and capabilities to manage this shift in the way consumers purchase goods.

2. Strengthening the workforce. Without a knowledgeable, motivated, diverse, and flexible workforce, it is difficult to advance CPSC's safety mission, particularly in the areas of compliance, prevention, stakeholder outreach, rulemaking, and enforcement. Workforce development is a challenge because of the relatively small size of the agency compared to the breadth of its mandate. The workforce must have the knowledge, training, skills, and resources to manage a changing marketplace with evolving risks. Moreover, as priorities change, management must encourage and leverage employees from different backgrounds to maximize their potential and achieve the agency's goals. Without building and retaining a skilled, motivated, and diverse workforce that has the necessary tools and resources, ongoing voluntary and mandatory rulemaking efforts will be delayed, unreasonably dangerous consumer products will remain in the market longer than necessary, and companies may not have the information or incentives to prioritize product safety.

3. Communications. Effective communications that engages consumers, stakeholders, and the safety community is critical for the success of the agency. As discussed above, the rise of e-commerce has created more opportunities for manufacturers, including overseas manufacturers, to sell directly to consumers. CPSC needs to work on improving communication with consumers purchasing online, small manufacturers, and online e-commerce platforms. In addition, reaching at risk populations, including traditionally disadvantages communities, as well as gathering injury data relevant to these populations is difficult but necessary to advance CPSC's safety mission. Tools need to be developed to better engage communities that historically have not received the appropriate level of attention to ensure consumers are informed and the agency takes those populations into consideration during rulemakings and other activities. Finally, communicating unreasonable risk of injury or death related to specific products can be a challenge depending on the willingness of a manufacturer to engage with the CPSC. Working with stakeholders, including manufacturers, retailers, and online platforms to expedite meaningful warnings to consumers where appropriate will reduce the risk of injuries and deaths to consumers.

## **B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts.

I have a rollover IRA and federal retirement account. My wife has a rollover IRA and defined contribution retirement accounts with World Wildlife Fund.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain.

No

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the CPSC's DAEO to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the ethics agreement I have entered into with CPSC's DAEO and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the CPSC's DAEO to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the ethics agreement I have entered into with CPSC's DAEO and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the CPSC's DAEO to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the ethics agreement I have entered into with CPSC's DAEO and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

> In my positions working on the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and in the office of Senator Boxer, my professional responsibilities included working directly on the drafting and disposition of legislation and the oversight of the agencies within the jurisdiction of the respective committees.

> While at Charter Communications, I worked on a number of proceedings before the Federal Communications Commission, including two merger proceedings in which Charter was a party. In addition, I worked on numerous proceeding including proceedings related to closed captioning, the implementation of Section 103 of the STELA Reauthorization Act, the reclassification of broadband, the modernization of the E-rate program, and business data services. I was not a lobbyist. I did provide support to the government affairs team on legislative issues as requested, including related to tax reform legislation, retransmission consent reform, and set-top box requirements.

## **C. LEGAL MATTERS**

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group?

No

If yes:

a. Provide the name of agency, association, committee, or group;

b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;

c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action; d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain.

No

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

No additional information

No

### **D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE**

 Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority?

Yes

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistle blowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures?

Yes

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee?

Yes

4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so?

Yes

(Nominee is to include this signed affidavit along with answers to the above questions.)

## **F. AFFIDAVIT**

<u>Alexander Hochn-Sapric</u> being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.

Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this  $\underline{/}{}^{\underline{/}}$  day of  $\underline{July}$ , 2021.

Notary Public

DAVID KIM Notary Public - State of Maryland Montgomery County My Commission Expires May 1, 2023

# **ALEXANDER D. HOEHN-SARIC**

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

House Committee on Energy & Commerce	Washington, D.C.
Chief Counsel for Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce and	2019 – Present
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology	
Chief Counsel for Subcommittee on Communication and Technology	2018 – 2019

- Advise the Chairman, Subcommittee Chairs, Committee Members, and their staff on policy issues under the Subcommittees' jurisdiction, including product safety, consumer protection, communications, emerging technologies, automotive safety, and privacy
- Perform and manage oversight of consumer protection and communications agencies and industries under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittees, including the Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Manage team of counsel and professional staff to advance the Committee's legislative and oversight priorities, which culminated last Congress in the passage of over a dozen laws as well as numerous hearings and letters to hold the Trump Administration and companies accountable for consumer protection failures
- Worked in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress on product safety legislation signed into law that establishes safety standards for portable fuel containers and increases the CPSC's focus on port surveillance as well as passing out of the House of Representatives bills that would ban inclined sleepers for babies and dangerous crib bumpers, establish furniture tip-over and flammability standards, and establish a carbon monoxide alarm grant program targeting low-income and elderly individuals
- Work with consumer advocates, industry, and government representatives to advance the Committee's agenda and represent the Chairman at conferences and on panels

#### **Charter Communications**

Senior Vice President, Policy and External Affairs

- Worked directly with senior business executives, including CEO, to develop and execute strategies to • advance the company's legislative and regulatory agenda
- Oversaw team dedicated to analyzing legislation, coordinating with federal cybersecurity and • emergency disaster officials, and building partnerships with think tanks, diversity, accessibility, and consumer groups
- Represented Charter at public events and before government agencies to promote Charter's policy positions and agenda

## **Federal Communications Commission**

Policy Director, Office of Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel

- Provided strategic and legal advice to the Commissioner on policy and regulatory matters with primary responsibility for media and technology issues
- Negotiated regulatory items with the offices of the Chairman and other Commissioners
- Represented the Commissioner in meetings with consumer advocates. Administration officials. industry stakeholders, at public events, and with members of the press

Washington, D.C. 2013 - 2018

Washington, D.C. 2012 - 2013 **U.S. Department of Commerce** Deputy General Counsel for Strategic Initiatives

- Served as one of two deputy general counsels and as the principal advisor to the General Counsel on digital economy matters, including privacy, cybersecurity, and telecommunications
- Coordinated the intra and interagency activities of the Department of Commerce's Internet Policy Task Force and worked across Administration to implement the White House Privacy Blueprint
- Supervised the chief counsels for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commercial Law Development Program, and Minority Business Development Agency

U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation	Washington, D.C.
Senior Counsel for Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance	2010 – 2011
Counsel for Subcommittee on Communications	2008 – 2010
Counsel for Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs, Insurance and Automotive Safety	2007 – 2008

- Performed oversight of the CPSC, the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and related industries
- Drafted and negotiated legislation and shepherded bills through Committee mark-up, floor consideration and conference processes, including the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-314) and the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-175)
- Provided strategic, legislative, and oversight advice to the Chairman, Senators, and their staff on Subcommittee issues, including product safety, privacy, broadband, public safety, and cybersecurity
- Planned and organized hearings; drafted memoranda, statements, and questions for Members
- Met with constituents, industry, government, and consumer advocate representatives and represented the Chairman at conferences and on panels

#### Senator Barbara Boxer

Counsel

• Advised the Senator on legislative and legal issues including product safety, consumer protection, telecommunications, privacy, intellectual property, and technology issues

#### Latham & Watkins

Associate

• Advised a diverse range of communications and technology clients on federal regulatory, privacy, antitrust, and intellectual property issues

#### Sullivan & Cromwell

Associate

• Managed significant aspects of complex litigation cases and arbitrations related to insurance fraud and contract disputes and advised clients on intellectual property, antitrust and fraud issues

## United States District Court for the District of Maryland

Law Clerk to the Honorable Benson Everett Legg

Researched and drafted opinions and bench memoranda

## EDUCATION AND BAR MEMBERSHIPS

University of California, Los Angeles, J.D., Symposium Editor, UCLA Law Review

University of Chicago, A.B., Political Science, General and Departmental Honors

Bar Memberships: District of Columbia (active) and Virginia (inactive)

Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. 1999 – 2005

2005 - 2006

New York, New York 1996 – 1999

Baltimore, Maryland 1995 – 1996

Washington, D.C. 2011 – 2012