

Questions for the Record to the Honorable Gina Raimondo  
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Nomination Hearing  
January 26, 2021

Response to Written Questions Submitted by the Hon. Maria Cantwell to the Hon. Gina Raimondo.

Digital Trade. Digital trade and the free flow of information across borders is vitally important to the more than 5,000 technology companies in Washington state and our state's more than \$2.8 billion digital export economy. Nationally, U.S. digital exports were worth more than half a trillion dollars in 2019, an increase of more than 50 percent over the past decade. In Washington state, software industry jobs have increased by approximately one-third since 2016, and now account for around half a million jobs in my state. Unfortunately, digital trade barriers and restrictions are proliferating in many countries, which could undermine our nation's economic recovery and threaten key trade relationships, including the \$1.1 trillion trade relationship between the U.S. and Europe.

*Question 1.* If confirmed, will you prioritize digital trade issues and the continued free flow of digital goods and information across borders?

Answer. For U.S. companies to compete, they need the ability to – among other things – access networks, transfer data, and use secure data centers of their choice. If confirmed, I will pursue all available avenues to ensuring data flows and cross-border digital trade, whether that is through trade agreements, the World Trade Organization, expansion of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Cross Border Privacy Rules System, or enhancement of the EU-U.S. Privacy Shield Framework.

*Question 2.* What will you do to ensure that US companies of all sizes can compete on a level playing field and have access to open digital markets in other countries?

Answer. Leveling the playing field through robust digital trade commitments is necessary to expanding trade in goods and services across all industries. Given the global economy's dependence on the internet, market-opening commitments are a cornerstone of real economic wins for U.S. industry. If confirmed, I will ensure that the full expertise of the Department of Commerce is brought to bear on behalf of U.S. companies that leverage the digital economy to provide innovative services, deliver goods, and reduce costs and increase efficiency in their own operations.

Softwood Lumber. The health of the U.S. lumber industry is essential to jobs in Washington state and across the country. It supports the economy by producing lumber and by supplying the U.S. housing market for local communities. However, enforcement must remain a priority. In 2019, nearly half of all antidumping and countervailing duties collected by the U.S. came from Canadian lumber imports. It is vital that we continue to fully enforce U.S. trade laws.

*Question 3.* Will you ensure a level playing field for the U.S. lumber industry by fully enforcing U.S. trade laws against unfairly traded Canadian lumber imports?

Answer. I understand the importance of the Antidumping and Countervailing Duties (AD/CVD) orders on imports of softwood lumber from Canada on the U.S. lumber industry. If I am confirmed, the Department of Commerce will continue to vigorously enforce U.S. trade laws, including the AD/CVD orders on imports of softwood lumber from Canada, to ensure that the American lumber industry, and all U.S. workers, farmers and businesses are able to compete on a level playing field and are not harmed by unfair imports from Canada, or any other U.S. trading partner.

Stakeholder Engagement in Ocean Conservation. The Biden Administration has placed an emphasis on “building back better,” restoring our economy but doing so in a way that is equitable and just, and by addressing climate change. Meeting all three of these goals is going to require the tools, resources, and expertise from across government agencies, including the Department of Commerce and NOAA. The United States has a particularly strong blue economy, with ocean goods and services contributing over \$373 billion to the nation’s GDP and supporting over 2.3 million jobs in 2018.

*Question 4.* Protecting rural jobs that depend on sustainable fisheries is a priority. What role do you see for NOAA in the design and implementation of a potential 30x30 strategy in the U.S. EEZ?

Answer. Creating and promoting job growth is important to me. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on ensuring that jobs related to sustainable fisheries are protected. On January 27, 2021, President Biden issued an Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. Sec. 216 of this Executive Order calls for the Secretaries of Interior, Commerce and the Council of Environmental Quality, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a report within 90 days of its issuance on the steps to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of land and water. The Executive Order calls on Federal agencies to work with the “States, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other stakeholders.”

*Question 5.* How will you work to ensure that fishermen and fishing communities are included in the consideration of a potential 30x30 proposal?

Answer. As noted above, on January 27, 2021, President Biden released an Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. Section 216 (c) specifically calls on the Secretary of Commerce, through NOAA, to work in the first 60 days to collect input from fishermen, regional ocean councils, scientists and fishery management council how to make fisheries and protected resources more resilient to climate change. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

*Question 6.* What opportunities do you see to harness the 30x30 goal to increase equitable access to these protected areas and bolster coastal economies where fisheries are managed based on science?

Answer. As the Governor of a coastal state, I recognize the importance of coastal communities, and the need to ensure equal access to marine resources so that all communities can benefit. If confirmed, I will work with NOAA, other Federal agencies and stakeholders to implement the Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, including in increasing equitable access and bolstering coastal communities.

Response to Written Questions Submitted by the Hon. Amy Klobuchar to the Hon. Gina Raimondo.

Broadband. I am leading legislation to invest \$100 billion in broadband infrastructure to close the digital divide once and for all. My bill also establishes an Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth at the Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration to help ensure people in every community have the tools, support, and technology they need to take advantage of internet access.

*Question 1.* President Biden has identified investment in infrastructure, including broadband infrastructure, as a top priority for his administration. What are your plans to help expand broadband access as the Secretary of Commerce?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with NTIA, which is currently in the process of standing up the Office of Connectivity and Growth, to amplify the work of NTIA's BroadbandUSA. Through its BroadbandUSA work, NTIA serves local, state, and tribal governments, industry and non-profits seeking to expand broadband connectivity and promote digital inclusion by providing solution-neutral technical assistance and convening regional workshops that bring local stakeholders together. NTIA also leverages its State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN) which includes 50 states and three territories.

*Question 2.* What are your plans to promote digital equity and inclusion, and will you work with me to help address this need?

Answer. As I stated in my hearing testimony, broadband access is not a luxury; it's a necessity, providing children access to their classes, the ill and infirm access via telehealth to their doctor, and enabling consumers to sign up for the COVID vaccine. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that the Department brings the full weight of its resources to advancing digital equity and inclusion by, for example, utilizing NTIA's Digital Inclusion Leaders Network (DILN)—a group of state and local government leaders working to bridge the digital divide—to serve as a critical resource for leveraging knowledge and best practices. In addition, NTIA will rely on data from over 20 years of its Internet Use Survey data to inform policy approaches to closing the digital divide.

Steel Dumping. Iron ore mining has been a way of life for families in northern Minnesota, but illegal practices such as steel dumping unfairly harm our workers. I have long called for tough actions to address Chinese Steel dumping because our workers deserve to know everyone is playing by the same rules.

*Question 3.* What should Congress do to best work with the new Administration to stand up to unfair trade practices?

Answer. If confirmed as the Secretary of Commerce, I look forward to working with Congress on addressing unfairly traded imports from China and other trading partners that distort the market. If confirmed, it is my intention that the Department of Commerce will continue to rigorously enforce U.S. trade laws, including the Antidumping and Countervailing Duties (AD/CVD) laws, to help ensure a level playing field - not only for the critical U.S. steel sector, but comprehensively for U.S. workers, farmers, and other businesses injured by unfair trade.

Response to Written Questions Submitted by the Hon. Richard Blumenthal to the Hon. Gina Raimondo.

The North Atlantic right whale. We share a mutual understanding that commercial and recreational fishing and shipping contributes significantly to our nation's economy, but the contributions of marine species – like the North Atlantic right whale – who inhabit our federal waters often take a backseat to industry, particularly in the previous administration. These species make countless contributions through tourism, ecosystem services, and carbon capture. Unfortunately, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the world's most endangered large whale species, with only about 400 whales remaining.

*Question 1.* If confirmed, how will you guide the agency to not only focus on the management of sustainable fisheries and other marine industries but to encourage the coexistence of these activities with marine mammal species, such as the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale, which is facing extinction due to climate change, entanglement in fishing gear, vessel strikes and outdated management policies?

Answer. I recognize the importance of shipping and fishing to the nation's economy and I appreciate the ecological, cultural, and economic importance of protected marine mammals such as the North Atlantic right whale. If confirmed, I would welcome opportunities to learn more about NOAA's efforts to partner with the fishing community, the shipping industry, and other interested stakeholders to protect, conserve, and recover North Atlantic right whales and their habitats and to work with you and your constituents on this issue.

The 2020 Census. In March 2020, as the 2020 Census was fully underway, the COVID pandemic impacted the process, causing the Census Bureau to suspend field operations for over a month. Initially, former Secretary Ross and Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham announced that they would be extending the deadline for self-response and field data collection and asked Congress to extend the statutory deadlines for delivery of apportionment and redistricting data by 120 days. However, in August, the Census Bureau inexplicably reversed course, shortened the enumeration period, and decided to move forward with the original statutory deadlines for apportionment and redistricting data, raising serious concerns that they would not have adequate time to complete a full, fair, and accurate 2020 census. Further, last month, the Government Accountability Office testified before a House Oversight and Reform Committee hearing

expressing concern about the risks to 2020 census data quality caused by COVID-19 and related developments.

*Question 2.* If confirmed, will you commit to protecting the integrity of the 2020 Census?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 3.* If confirmed, will you commit to working with the Commerce Committee to ensure that the Census Bureau has all necessary resources to ensure a full, fair, and accurate count is represented?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 4.* In May 2020, a career Census Bureau staffer expressed concern that the Census would not be able to meet its statutory deadlines. If confirmed, will you remain transparent and open in your communication with the Committee to ensure that the Census Bureau is meeting its constitutional and statutory responsibilities?

Answer. Yes.

Response to Written Questions Submitted by the Hon. Edward Markey to the Hon. Gina Raimondo.

Restricting the 3D Printing of Guns. In January 2020, the Commerce and State Departments finalized rules that shift jurisdiction over small arms exports -- including technical data, such as files for the 3D printing of guns -- from State to Commerce. A coalition of state attorneys general obtained an injunction that maintains State Department oversight over technical data. But if a pending court decision vacates that injunction, the Commerce Department will then have jurisdiction over the posting of files for the 3D printing of guns.

*Question 1.* What actions would you like to see the Commerce Department take to ensure that the posting and export of files for the 3D printing of guns continues to be restricted?

Answer. If the pending court decision vacates the injunction, if confirmed, I will work with the White House and members of Congress, including your office, to discuss ways of implementing meaningful oversight similar to State Department oversight that occurred before the rule change.

Response to Written Questions Submitted by the Hon. Gary Peters to the Hon. Gina Raimondo.

*Question 1.* For Michiganders, the Great Lakes are not just a precious environmental treasure, they're an economic driver, and they are literally part of our DNA. I enjoyed our discussion of NOAA's beautiful Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Michigan is also the proud home of the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, several weather forecasting stations, and other important NOAA resources that help support the communities and business throughout the

region. If confirmed as Secretary, will you commit to working with me to support and grow NOAA's capacity to provide services within the Great Lakes?

Answer. I recognize the importance of the Great Lakes to our economy and I know that NOAA provides data, tools, and services that support communities surrounding the Great Lakes, just as they do in Rhode Island. If confirmed, I would look forward to learning more about NOAA's work in the Great Lakes region and working with you to support the services they provide to you and your constituents.

*Question 2.* The President announced yesterday a new executive order directed across the entire federal government to ensure that when taxpayer dollars are used, they are not used to buy foreign goods but rather are supporting domestic manufacturers and domestic iron and steel. I was part of a bipartisan group of Senators that introduced the *Build America, Buy America Act* (led by Senators Brown and Braun) in the last Congress, which called on many of the items in the President's executive order. If confirmed as Secretary, will you commit to working with me and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee—where I will serve as chairman—to help make permanent these provisions to strengthen Buy America requirements that create jobs and support our domestic manufacturing base?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I will support efforts to help make permanent provisions to strengthen Buy America requirements where tax dollars are spent buying U.S. made goods. As you note, President Biden has made clear his support for Buy America provisions through the issuance of Executive Order 14005. Within the Department of Commerce, the Economic Development Administration has a long history of supporting Buy America requirements in its infrastructure grants.

*Question 3.* KLA, one of the major US-based semiconductor equipment manufacturers is in the process of opening a second U.S. headquarters in Michigan, creating over 600 high-tech jobs in the Midwest. One challenge semiconductor manufacturers like KLA face has been export restrictions that make it difficult to compete with competitors in Korea, Japan, and Europe. I support efforts to be tough on China so I hope we can work together to strengthen the restrictions on China while ensuring our companies can compete globally. Will you commit to working with me on this?

Answer. If confirmed as Secretary of Commerce, I will commit to working with you on this issue. I will ensure that the Department conducts a full analysis of any changes in export control requirements before implementation.

*Question 4.* The Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, where I am the incoming Chairman, has jurisdiction over the Census Bureau. Will you commit to working with the Committee and with me to return the Census Bureau to the hands of experts and de-politicize it; Finish the 2020 Census as accurately as possible; Begin preparing for a more inclusive 2030 Census; and continue the critical surveys the Bureau conducts every year?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 5.* Michigan has been ranked the 2<sup>nd</sup> best state for aerospace manufacturing. The University of Michigan has one of the best space and space-related engineering programs in the country, which has helped pioneer the development of small satellites that are rapidly being deployed in outer space. I am joining Senator Wicker in Coauthoring the SPACE Act, which would authorize the Office of Commercial Space within the Department of Commerce. I have also been in touch with Commerce Department staff about the development of a space commodities exchange—something the Space Force has been interested in as well—to help provide certainty to financial markets backing new commercial space endeavors, as well as to our military and civilian space activities. Will you have staff look into this issue and provide timely feedback on the merits of developing a space commodities exchange from the perspective of the Office of Space Commerce?

Answer. Thank you for your support of NOAA's Office of Space Commerce. If confirmed, I will work with NOAA to look into the issue of a space commodities exchange and the merits of developing such an exchange.

*Question 6.* Space Weather has the potential to impact infrastructure on Earth and severely disrupt the economy. The insurance industry has cited estimates of a catastrophic space weather event as high as 10% in the next 10 years. An estimate by Lloyds of London found that a worst-case scenario space weather event could cost up to \$2.6 trillion. Impacts include outages or blackouts of electric utilities, disrupting GPS and communication networks, and forcing airlines to reroute air traffic. NOAA operates a number of space weather instruments. I authored the bipartisan PROSWIFT Act, which tasks NOAA with coordinating across federal agencies to help improve our understanding of and mitigate this threat. At the appropriate time in the future, will you please provide an update on the implementation of this law?

Answer. Thank you for your support of NOAA and its space weather mission. If confirmed, I will work with NOAA to provide you an update on the Department's implementation of the PROSWIFT Act.

*Question 7.* The COVID 19 pandemic has made it even clearer that broadband deployment is necessary to ensure the success of all American both in urban and rural areas. The President has called for major investments in broadband infrastructure. Last Congress, I introduced the Broadband Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act which establishes a financing program to make available loans, loan guarantees, and lines of credit for the construction and deployment of broadband infrastructure at NTIA. If confirmed as Secretary, will you commit to working with me and the Committee to accelerate broadband infrastructure deployment?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I will work to ensure that the Department will focus on bringing all of its resources to bear to accelerate broadband infrastructure deployment. Commerce's NTIA is uniquely qualified to help in expanding both broadband infrastructure to areas of unmet need as well as supporting communities with their digital equity and inclusion needs.

*Question 8.* In the last Congress, I joined a bipartisan group of senators pushing for a massive investment in scientific research and technology development—the Endless Frontiers Act. I

know you've commented on the need to "Go big" as we try to build our way back out of the pandemic. Can you comment on the importance of investing in basic research like this?

Answer. Basic scientific research is imperative to set the long-term groundwork for technology development and later commercial application. President Biden has charged the Office of Science and Technology Policy to examine how we as a nation support research and development to ensure that the U.S. remains competitive globally in key areas of technology (A.I., quantum, communications, etc.). With bureaus like NIST having a key role to play in many of the emerging technology areas identified in the Endless Frontier Act, if confirmed, I look forward to working with the White House and Congress to ensure that our programs are positioned to support the advanced research necessary to fight the pandemic, ensure our competitive position, combat climate change, and build back our economy.

Response to Written Questions Submitted by the Hon. Tammy Baldwin to the Hon. Gina Raimondo.

*Question 1.* The Economic Census is intended to serve "as the foundation for the measurement of U.S. businesses and their economic impact." One in three Americans is a member-owner of at least one cooperative business, and to capture the economic impact of cooperatives, the Census Bureau rightfully included a question on the 2017 survey asking respondents if the business identifies as a cooperative. Unfortunately, the Bureau has not published any data on these responses, nor made the data available to cooperative researchers and economists. Will you commit to releasing Economic Census data on cooperatives and ensure that the Economic Census continues to measure the economic impact of cooperative businesses in future surveys?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and the Census Bureau to ensure cooperative businesses are integrated into future surveys.

Response to Written Questions Submitted by the Hon. Tammy Duckworth to the Hon. Gina Raimondo.

*Question 1.* As part of the 2021 NDAA, Congress authorized a National Semiconductor Technology Center (NSTC) housed within the U.S. Department of Commerce, with the goal of furthering research and development into this crucial technology and strengthening our domestic supply. If confirmed, how will you prioritize funding for research in this and other critical technologies, and do you agree that the Department should solicit further funding for research and development of critical technologies like semiconductors?

Answer. Cutting-edge semiconductor technology is crucial to both U.S. national and economic security. If confirmed, I will make every effort to prioritize R&D that can help address the advancement of semiconductor technology, overcome barriers to its manufacture and security, including models like the NSTC that bring together stakeholders from across government and industry. I look forward to working with Congress and the White House on ways to secure further funding for the important efforts laid out in the NDAA.

*Question 2.* From a global competitiveness standpoint, how vital is it that the U.S. grow its domestic manufacturing base in technologies like semiconductors? And what are your plans to implement and promote the new semiconductor program at the Department of Commerce that Congress authorized with the FY 2021 NDAA?

Answer. A vibrant domestic semiconductor manufacturing capability is an important component of the overall competitive position of the U.S. If confirmed, I plan to work diligently to coordinate efforts between Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Commerce to strengthen the U.S. semiconductor industry. I look forward to working with Congress on appropriations to support the efforts outlined in the NDAA.

*Question 3.* Within the Department of Commerce, what position serves as the current point person for the Secretary in evaluating the breadth of the Department's response to trade enforcement and anti-competitiveness concerns? And how does that individual ensure that small businesses – especially those without a trade association or lobbyists – are able to quickly and easily flag concerns about potentially unfair trade practices so that the Department may analyze the situation and respond swiftly?

Answer. I believe in leveling the playing field for small businesses when it comes to trade. If confirmed, I look forward to working to ensure all U.S. companies, including small and medium-sized companies, benefit from our trade agreements.

It is my understanding that Commerce offers a number of tools to engage with the public to ensure compliance with trade agreements. It maintains a hotline (202-482-1191) and website (<https://tcc.export.gov>) to report complaints. The ITA website (<https://www.trade.gov/trade-agreements-compliance>) includes videos and infographics on trade barriers so companies can quickly self-assess if they are facing a trade barrier as the result of foreign government non-compliance. Finally, compliance officers work closely with more than 100 U.S. Export Assistance Centers that assist small and medium-sized exporters located throughout the United States.

In addition, The Department of Commerce provides counseling on the remedies available under the Antidumping and Countervailing Duties (AD/CVD) laws through its AD/CVD petition counseling office to ensure that all U.S. companies, including small and medium-sized companies, understand and have access to the applicable laws. The office can be reached through a hotline (202-482-1255) and dedicated email address ([petition.counseling@trade.gov](mailto:petition.counseling@trade.gov)). Additional information can also be found through the petition counseling website at <https://www.trade.gov/ec-petition-counseling>.

*Question 4.* In confirmed, how would you survey and analyze the current policies and procedures within the Economic Development Administration to ensure that it is fully combatting racial and economic justice as part of its mission?

Answer. EDA's mission to empower distressed communities through revitalization and diversification of local economies is consistent with the promotion of racial and economic justice. My understanding is that EDA looks forward to working with the Administration pursuant to President Biden's Executive Order 13985 to identify and continue to embed equitable principles and approaches across the bureau. Additionally, EDA will review its policies and actions to ensure they do not create barriers to equal participation by eligible institutions seeking grants from EDA.

Response to Written Questions Submitted by the Hon. Kyrsten Sinema to the Hon. Gina Raimondo.

Semiconductor Manufacturing Grants. As we discussed at your hearing, semiconductors play a crucial role in our economic and national security. The 2021 defense authorization law included important provisions to incentivize domestic semiconductor manufacturing and reverse the decline in American semiconductor manufacturing jobs.

*Question 1.* Will you commit to depoliticize the grant process and to establish a procedure that reviews applications and distributes grants based on the benefits to domestic semiconductor manufacturing and not based on politics or the location of the project?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that DOC grants processes are not politicized and that they utilize procedures that are fair, competitive, transparent, and oriented to benefit domestic semiconductor manufacturing.

Semiconductor Research. In addition to the grants to expand domestic manufacturing of semiconductors, the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act calls on the Department to establish a National Semiconductor Technology Center (NSTC). The NSTC is intended to conduct research, development and prototyping to maintain U.S. leadership in this critical technology.

*Question 2.* What role do you envision your Department playing in funding research in critical technologies, such as semiconductors?

Answer. NIST currently has a number of research efforts directly aligned with the needs of the semiconductor industry and other critical technology areas, such as artificial intelligence, quantum science, and advanced communications. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress to support and grow these ongoing efforts at NIST as well as other activities across the Department that can help advance U.S. competitiveness in key technology areas, and that contribute to the establishment of a robust domestic semiconductor ecosystem.

Broadband Interagency Coordination. As we discussed at your hearing, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) can play a major role in expanding broadband throughout Arizona. In addition to the programs designed to expand access into rural and tribal areas of Arizona, the COVID relief bill also sets up a one-stop shop at NTIA to coordinate broadband development opportunities across the executive branch.

*Question 3.* Will you commit to quickly establish that office and help state and local governments identify all the opportunities for federal assistance for broadband deployment?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to promptly establishing the new office and to help state and local governments identify all the opportunities for federal assistance for broadband deployment. It is my understanding that NTIA has begun the process of setting up the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth and to implement the new obligations relative to tracking federal dollars, streamlining application processes, and coordinating among federal agencies relative to broadband funding.

Cross Border Trade. Cross border trade is an economic driver of Arizona's economy. A University of Arizona study shows that Mexican tomato imports support 33,000 U.S. jobs. Agribusiness supply chains derived from these imported tomatoes account for nearly \$3 billion in U.S. gross domestic product. With trade agreements in place, such as USMCA, the North America supply chain provides consumers with the opportunity for choice and affordable produce while supporting our domestic growers. USTR has recently initiated a number of trade investigations having to do with imported produce, specifically related to seasonality concerns. These investigations destabilize the supply chain and open the door to potential damaging retaliations from our trade partners. That's why I joined with Senator Moran and other members of Congress to send a letter to USTR, urging them to consider the potential impacts when making these decisions.

*Question 4.* In your opinion, how do we continue to foster a strong trade supply chain while not disrupting the USMCA and ensuring our domestic growers are supported and consumers are given affordable choices throughout the year?

Answer. If confirmed, I will ensure that Commerce continues its outreach with growers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables to enhance their understanding of applicable trade remedy laws and processes and will continue to monitor foreign subsidy practices that have a direct impact on U.S. producers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables.

Commercial Space. The commercial space industry is growing at an incredible speed-- creating jobs, innovating, and fostering public-private partnerships across the country. Yuma, Arizona is currently going through the process to establish a spaceport that would have the ability to launch mini and nano satellites. If the spaceport moves forward, it will grow Yuma's economy and help the United States remain a leader in space.

*Question 5.* As the commercial space economy expands and more technology is sent into space, how will you work with entities to ensure the National Airspace System is able to support additional launch and reentry points as well as increased traffic?

Answer. I understand the importance in providing space situational awareness and traffic management to ensure safe and productive development in the space economy. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NOAA, other Federal agencies, and the Congress on this important topic.

Space Traffic Management. Given the exponential growth in numbers of satellites and the increasing amount of debris in orbit, the Office of Space Commerce is charged with protecting the space based services that are critical to our nation's infrastructure, sustaining U.S. space sector leadership globally, and international space cooperation. Last year Congress provided increased funding for the Office of Space Commerce and direction to initiate a Space Traffic Management (STM) pilot program in collaboration with industry.

*Question 6.* What are your thoughts on the importance of Space Traffic Management?

Answer. I understand that successful and collaborative space traffic management will be essential if the US and the world are to realize the potential benefits of a healthy and growing space economy. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NOAA, other Federal agencies, and the Congress on this important topic.

Privacy Shield. In July of 2020, the European Court of Justice struck down the Privacy Shield program, invalidating a critical mechanism for transferring personal data to the United States from the European Union. This has raised significant concerns about the continued viability of trans-Atlantic data flows, which are estimated to generate more than \$7 trillion in economic activity.

*Question 7.* As Secretary of Commerce, will you support and prioritize the on-going negotiations to replace the Privacy Shield program with the goal of ensuring the continued viability of trans-Atlantic data flows?

Answer. If confirmed, one of my top priorities as Commerce Secretary will be to quickly conclude an enhanced Privacy Shield framework that fully addresses the European Court of Justice's concerns and enables the EU-U.S. transfers of personal data that underpin the \$7.1 trillion transatlantic economy. I will work closely with my counterparts in the U.S. government, in particular the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Justice, and the Department of State, in order to ensure that these whole of government negotiations are successful and the 5,400+ Privacy Shield participants, more than 70 percent of whom were small and medium enterprises, can efficiently and effectively do business with Europe once again on firm ground.

Bioscience and IP Rights. In Arizona, our bioscience and biotech industries fuel new jobs, and delivering life-changing innovations. We've worked hard in Arizona to leverage smart public sector investments to attract next generation start-ups, as well as global companies looking to build out manufacturing and research facilities. Arizona inventors have been awarded more than 2,000 bioscience-related patents since 2016. Never have the benefits of strong IP been as relevant as they are today. We have seen how pharmaceutical researchers have worked so quickly to develop COVID vaccines and therapeutics, and the importance of going after stolen IP and fraudulent medical products.

*Question 8.* In order to continue driving discovery and to maintain the global competitiveness of American and Arizonan companies, how will the Commerce Department use trade enforcement tools to create a level playing field and protect millions of American jobs?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with the Congress to protect U.S. intellectual property. The Department will address the challenge of protecting U.S. intellectual property from theft and unfair competition by helping our innovators and creators, providing information on how to obtain protection, maintaining high standards for protection in any future trade agreements, using tools at the Department's disposal to ensure our trading partners abide by their international commitments, including those respecting IP protection and enforcement, and participating and defending U.S. intellectual property interests in international forums and standard setting processes.

Response to Written Questions Submitted by the Hon. Jacky Rosen to the Hon. Gina Raimondo.

*Question 1.* The ability to transfer data across international borders is crucial to a broad range of companies, of all sizes and industries, and to consumers who rely on global services to help them work, learn, and connect with others from home. Can you commit to making it a priority to help ensure that companies can continue to transfer data across international borders and to working with your European counterparts to reach a new agreement to support data transfers from the EU to the US?

Answer. If confirmed, one of my top priorities as Commerce Secretary will be to quickly conclude an enhanced Privacy Shield framework that fully addresses the European Court of Justice's concerns and enables the EU-U.S. transfers of personal data that underpin the \$7.1 trillion transatlantic economy. I will work closely with my counterparts in the U.S. government, in particular the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Justice, and the Department of State, in order to ensure that these whole of government negotiations are successful and the 5,400+ Privacy Shield participants, more than 70 percent of whom were small and medium enterprises, can efficiently and effectively do business with Europe once again on firm ground.

*Question 2.* With a majority of Americans working remotely due to COVID-19, will you commit to strengthening cybersecurity workforce capabilities to secure and defend information infrastructure?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I commit to strengthening our cybersecurity workforce capabilities. I am aware of NIST's recently revised Workforce Framework for Cybersecurity and the output of the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education, which NIST manages. I look forward to working with NIST and the Department to continue improving our nation's cyber workforce.