

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

Full Committee
Nomination Hearing
Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.

DEMOCRATIC QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD

Mr. Steven Haines

COVER PAGE

RANKING MEMBER MARIA CANTWELL (D-WA)

Data Integrity. We have seen the integrity of federal economic data threatened by this Administration. This summer, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics was fired after publishing jobs data that the president did not like. If confirmed, you would be responsible for providing critical analysis and data to support trade policy decisions.

Question 1: If the Secretary or the President threatened to fire you if you released accurate economic data they did not like, would you risk losing your job to maintain data integrity?

Answer: *The President and the Secretary are committed to ensuring the accuracy and integrity of federal data. If confirmed, I look forward to sharing their commitment to data accuracy and integrity.*

Question 2: Yes or No: Will you commit to never compromise the integrity of government economic data?

Answer: *If confirmed, I will follow the law.*

Supply Chains. The U.S. manufacturing sector employs nearly 13 million American workers and accounts for 10.3 percent of our GDP, yet one supply chain shock can cause widespread disruption causing shortages and price increases.

As we discussed during the hearing, my bill, the Promoting Resilient Supply Chains Act (co-sponsored by Senators Blackburn, Blunt Rochester, and Young), would expand the responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary for Industry and Analysis. These new responsibilities would include promoting the stability of critical supply chains and emerging technologies by identifying, preparing for, and responding to supply chain shocks. I appreciate your commitment to implementing the legislation to the fullest extent if enacted, and hope that you can elaborate on your view of the bill for the record.

Question 1: Yes or No: Do you support my Promoting Resilient Supply Chains Act, and will you work with me to get this bill signed into law?

Answer: *The resiliency and security of America's supply chains is a top priority for the Industry & Analysis unit. I have been closely monitoring the potential enactment of the Promoting Resilient Supply Chains Act to ensure that I&A is ready to deliver on these new responsibilities if enacted.*

Question 2: What specific improvements do you think we should make to better protect our supply chains?

Answer: *President Trump is taking steps to restore American manufacturing and encourage the growth of key industries domestically. These efforts will incentivize demand for U.S.-made products and technologies and increase supply chain resiliency.*

In far too many areas, the United States has become reliant on imports of critical components and materials from adversaries, requiring bold action to secure American supply chains.

Dependence on foreign sources introduces external vulnerabilities, heightening the risk of disruptions that could have significant consequences for U.S. economic security.

Better understanding our exposure to producers in adversarial nations and identifying supply chain chokepoints is critical to helping American industry better restore, support, and safeguard their supply chains against unexpected shocks.

If confirmed, I will continuously monitor and evaluate data sources to ensure it can map critical sectors. This data driven approach helps inform targeted actions by the U.S. government, whether through trade enforcement, supply chain interventions, investment reviews, or domestic industrial development.

Tariffs' impact on American Families. The Trump Administration's unpredictable tariffs agenda has been felt the hardest by hard working American families and small businesses. In my home state, Teri's Toybox, a small toy store that has been in business for over 40 years, is experiencing 30 to 50 percent cost increases. This is forcing the store owners to absorb extra costs heading into the holiday shopping season and threatening the affordability of children's gifts.

The Supreme Court is weighing a case right now that will determine if there has been presidential overreach.

Question 1: Do you support the President's tariff agenda? Why or why not.

Answer: Yes. President Trump's trade actions have been necessary and deliberate responses to years of unfair trade practices that have harmed American workers, manufacturers, and critical supply chains.

Question 2: Do you believe the Administration's tariff policies are contributing to the affordability crisis impacting the American public? Why or why not.

Answer: Under President Trump's leadership, we have seen record investment pour into the United States from around the world. We are also seeing wage increases outpace the rate of inflation, which has slowed after reaching 40-year highs under the Biden administration.

Question 3: You have been working for this Administration since January. Are you aware of whether the Administration has developed specific contingency plans if the Supreme Court strikes down its IEEPA tariffs? If yes, please describe them.

Answer: The President has a number of tools and trade authorities at his disposal, and he stands ready to use them as necessary.

Question 4: What do you say to the small businesses like Terri's Toybox that are struggling with massive cost increases due to the Administration's tariffs and looming uncertainty?

Answer: *The Administration's trade policies are focused on revitalizing American manufacturing and encouraging the growth of strong domestic industries. If confirmed, I look forward to engaging with stakeholders from across the country to understand how businesses are impacted by trade policies.*

Tariff Analysis and Data. you served as Acting Assistant Secretary for Industry and Analysis earlier this year. You should be very familiar with the experts who collect key economic data for American trade and policy. However, the Administration has thus far failed to publish important analysis on how tariffs are impacting Americans and the U.S. economy.

Economic analysis should underpin U.S. trade policy. And Congress, businesses and American consumers should know what analyses the Administration is relying on to justify this tariff chaos.

Question 1: Would you agree that the office of Industry and Analysis has the expertise and ability to conduct analyses of the impact of tariffs on businesses, consumers, and the U.S. economy?

Answer:

Yes. Among its roles, I&A specializes in providing expertise, data, and advanced analytics to support stakeholders and inform decision-making on tariffs and trade, investment, and other matters affecting U.S. competitiveness.

Question 2: If confirmed, will you commit to publishing economic impact analyses with data on critical American industries, supply chains, and the economy as a whole?

Answer:

If confirmed, I will ensure that I&A analysts continue to provide the most sophisticated, data-driven analysis possible, and work closely with stakeholders, including American companies, to provide analytical products on trade, supply chains, industries, and the broader economy.

Tariffs Clothing and Textiles Impact. The Administration's chaotic trade policies have fostered confusion and disruption among key industries including the apparel and footwear industry. The Yale Budget lab estimates President Trump's import taxes will cause especially high price increases—22 percent for leather goods like shoes and 21 percent for apparel.

The outdoor clothing industry is particularly vital to my state, representing \$22.5 billion in GDP and more than 121,000 jobs in Washington alone.

Question 1: Do you disagree with the Yale Budget Lab's analysis that apparel and footwear are facing major price increases due to tariffs? If so, what studies or data support your position?

Answer:

I recognize the importance of the apparel and footwear industries, including outdoor clothing, and if confirmed I am committed to supporting policies that advance fair trade and investment.

Question 2: How long would it take to shift the current supply chains for these goods so more of their manufacturing can be done in the U.S.?

Answer:

The Trump Administration has taken several actions to ensure U.S. textile and apparel companies can manufacture competitively in the United States and employ American workers including closing the de minimis loophole and supporting this sector through policies that advance fair trade, investment, and sustainability

Question 3: What actions will you take to protect the apparel industry and small businesses, which currently face undue harm by the Trump Administration's tariff policies?

Answer:

The U.S. textile and apparel industry is a major engine of economic growth, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs and generating billions in output and exports. To protect American producers from unfair competition while also preserving our industrial capacity, the Trump Administration made it a priority to close the de minimis loophole around the world and advance fair trade.

Spokane Tech Hub. The goals of the Economic Development Administration's Tech Hub program are to diffuse our innovation capacity to all regions of the United States, onshoring our supply chains, and increasing our capacity for advanced materials manufacturing.

We have established a Washington and Idaho Tech Hub in Spokane focused on advanced thermoplastic composite materials with the ambitious goal of enabling manufacturing by industry at scale.

Question 1: Do you agree that the goals of the Tech Hub program are essential to our global competitiveness in the aerospace and aviation sectors?

Answer: Supporting a healthy, robust manufacturing industry is central to the Department of Commerce's mission. I defer to officials at the Economic Development Administration about the specifics of that program.

Question 2: Will you be an advocate within the Department of Commerce for the Spokane-Cour d'Alene Tech Hub?

Answer: If I am confirmed, I look forward to working with your office to learn more about this topic.

SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR (D-MN)

Question Topic: Tourism

The travel and tourism industry still face headwinds, including visa delays, workforce shortages, and a decline in international visitors — all of which affect U.S. services exports and regional economies like Minnesota's. The Department of Commerce's Industry & Analysis unit's data and competitiveness analysis will be key to our efforts to address these issues.

- How would you use the analytical tools of the office of Industry & Analysis to identify the barriers to travel and tourism recovery and turn those findings into recommendations that support this sector of the economy?

If confirmed, I will work with the National Travel and Tourism Office to further strengthen and capitalize on its important programs for the sector.

Question Topic: Brand USA

I have long been an advocate for Brand USA, a public-private partnership that promotes international travel to the United States. International visitors generate an estimated \$4,000 per trip and support more than 80,000 American jobs annually. I co-lead the bipartisan *VISIT USA Act* with Senator Sullivan to offset recent funding cuts to Brand USA.

Answer: If confirmed, how will you work to strengthen programs like Brand USA—which does not use taxpayer dollars— to ensure the U.S. remains competitive in attracting international visitors, especially with major upcoming events like the World Cup, America's Semiquincentennial celebrations, and the 2028 Olympics?

If confirmed, I will work with Brand USA to ensure that the program meets its statutory requirements.