

Statement of Harry Kumar
Nominee for Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Legislative and
Intergovernmental Affairs
Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
July 9, 2025

Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and distinguished Members of the Senate Commerce Committee:

I am honored to appear before you today as the nominee to serve as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs. I am deeply grateful to President Trump for my nomination, to Secretary Lutnick for confidence in me, and to this Committee for its consideration of my nomination.

Before I begin, I want to express my deepest gratitude to those joining me today, including my parents, whose unwavering support and example have profoundly shaped my commitment to public service, and my better half, Ali, whose love, encouragement, and support have been my foundation throughout this journey. Additionally, I am very grateful to have the support of countless family and friends who have helped shape my journey to this point.

I am a native Texan who was born in Houston and grew up in Southeast Texas, in the town of Beaumont. I was fortunate to be raised in a community that taught me the value of hard work, humility, and service and am forever grateful for the community that helped raise me.

I come before you filled with both humility and a strong sense of purpose. I believe my accumulated experience – including my prior work in Legislative Affairs at the Department of Commerce during President Trump’s first term and as a staffer in this body – will serve me well in faithfully executing the responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary Position.

In previous roles—across both the legislative and executive branches—I have worked to build bipartisan consensus, navigate complex environments, and strengthen the relationship between government and the communities it serves. If confirmed, I will bring that same approach to the Assistant Secretary role grounded in transparency, responsiveness, and collaboration.

The Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs plays a vital role in connecting the Department's work with Congress, state and local governments, and tribal partners. If confirmed, I will focus on three key priorities:

1. Timely responsiveness—prioritizing clear, proactive communication with members of Congress and their staff.
2. Intergovernmental partnership—deepening coordination with governors, mayors, and tribal leaders to ensure that the opportunities and challenges facing communities are understood by the Commerce Department.
3. Bipartisan collaboration—working across the aisle to achieve the goals shared by all Americans, such as economic growth, revitalizing U.S. manufacturing, and protecting American innovation.

Across the Department's diverse mission—from supporting U.S. exporters and small businesses to safeguarding critical supply chains and our domestic seafood industry—success depends on strong relationships. I believe that effective public policy is built through engagement, trust, and shared accountability.

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that the Commerce Department is a reliable partner to Congress and to governments at every level. That includes ensuring timely and accurate information, engaging state and local voices in federal policymaking, and building a culture of openness and respect.

In closing, I am deeply grateful for the Committee's consideration of my nomination. I wholeheartedly believe in the mission of the Department of Commerce, which is to create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity for all communities, and in the value of principled, responsive government. I look forward to working closely with members of this Committee to strengthen that mission.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.