

## **Opening Statement of Jonathan Davidson before the Senate Committee on Finance**

May 25, 2021

Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, and Members of the Finance Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today.

I'd like to start by expressing my gratitude to Senator Bennet and his remarkable team, with whom I spent almost half of my Senate career and from whom I've learned so much about the decency and thoughtfulness. I'm so proud of the work that I was fortunate to do with Senator Bennet during that time. Most recently, it has been an absolute thrill to see his and Senator Brown's American Family Act – not to be mistaken for the American Families Plan – become law, which will lift nearly 50 percent of children out of poverty in one single year.

I'd also like to thank Senator Warner, from whom I've learned so much as well, for his friendship and extraordinary support.

And I want to mention the Sarbanes family. Paul Sarbanes, who passed away late last year, was my mentor. He is dearly missed by me and my family. He is someone who made me understand and appreciate the historical conscience of the Senate. And I want to extend gratitude to John Sarbanes, his son, who has been so successful in the House of Representatives and helped me learn to navigate the ways of that body.

Finally, and most importantly, I'd like to thank my family; my kids, Leo, Mia, and Serena, who all make us proud -- almost all the time. And I know nominees often throw around hyperbole, but my wife Erin Sheehy is the reason I've been able to make it through anything difficult in my adult life – and she has been absolutely critical throughout this process. I've said this more than a few times: she has carried me and our family. And the same to my brother, who is the best older brother anyone could ever have, and to my father, who has been an example of the very best in parenthood and life generally, and who taught me about politics, diplomacy, and public service.

And finally, to my mom, whom we lost earlier this year, but whose relentless commitment to the underdog continues to inspire me every day. Thank you, and I love you all.

The partnership between Treasury and this Committee, its Members, and Congress overall is so important to the federal government and to the country. Just like all of you, the Treasury Department is working hard to help us recover from the pandemic and the related economic crisis. Treasury is implementing significant relief and recovery efforts and working on policies to strengthen our economy, to repair gaps in our nation's infrastructure, and to remedy uneven access to the American dream. And it's doing all that work on top of its substantial day-to-day responsibilities, like financing the government and implementing foreign economic sanctions. I fully appreciate how much we need to partner with this committee, in its legislative and oversight functions, to succeed in these efforts.

If I'm confirmed, my goal will be to serve as a reality broker between Treasury and Capitol Hill. Where we can provide information to members of Congress to help them do their jobs and aid their constituents, we should do so fully. Where we cannot, we should provide a clear and cogent explanation as to why not.

I am privileged to have spent the majority of my career working on Capitol Hill. I have learned so much about trust and character up here, and I have learned also to be cognizant of the fact that there is always even more that I don't know. I've come to recognize that almost everyone who comes to work here has good intentions. Most of the Members and staff are patriots who want to help our country. I have also come to learn that most of the good work we can all do together happens beneath the political din and sensationalized conflict. If confirmed, I hope to listen to you and work with you, to make real progress for every American.

In conclusion, I want to thank the Chairman, the Ranking Member, and their staffs. We all recognize how much work in addition to nominations everyone has to do and we are grateful for the effort it took to conduct this hearing. Thank you and I look forward to your questions.