

**Opening Statement of Brent James McIntosh**  
**Nominee to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury**  
**Senate Committee on Finance**  
**June 7, 2017**

Chairman Hatch, Senator Wyden, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am honored to be the President's nominee to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury, and I am grateful to the Secretary for his confidence in recommending me for this position.

Since being nominated, I have had the opportunity to meet with several of you and your staffs, and I appreciate the courtesies you afforded me in hosting those meetings. From my prior federal service, I am acutely aware of the need for a close working relationship with the Congress, and I look forward to working with you and your staffs to foster such a relationship should I be confirmed.

The challenges that the Treasury confronts, and the responsibilities of its chief legal officer in helping to navigate them, are daunting in both breadth and complexity. In the past two decades, I have twice watched the Treasury—including in particular the General Counsel's office—grapple with pressing, emergent issues of grave global consequence:

Having been in Manhattan's Financial District on September 11, 2001, I saw firsthand the horrors that terrorism wreaked that day. In the years following, I watched with deep gratitude the heroic work of Treasury personnel to bring to bear powerful financial tools to thwart those who would do us harm. And while serving on the White House staff from 2006 to 2009, I watched the tireless work of Treasury personnel to address urgent issues in the American economy. In both cases, the Treasury's dedicated, experienced, and immensely talented legal staff was central to the Department's efforts. It has long been apparent to me that it would be the honor of a lifetime to work among and lead that staff.

One prior Treasury General Counsel said at his confirmation hearing that "the legal issues facing the Treasury today are among the most critical in government." That statement has often been true, and I believe it is true today. Treasury has a crucial role to play in safeguarding the dynamism of the U.S. economy, in ensuring a fair and effective tax system, in advancing this nation's interests in the world, and in bolstering our national security.

I pledge that if confirmed, I will bring to my share of these tasks a commitment to rigorous legal analysis, zeal in the pursuit of the interests of the American people, and steadfast dedication to upholding the rule of law. I would strive to bring an unstinting devotion to duty inspired by the work ethic of my parents, both raised on farms in the Thumb of Michigan. I would be guided at all times by the obligation of fidelity to the Constitution. And I would keep ever in mind the fundamental truth, articulated by a mentor of mine, that the demands of honor have special application to government service.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear today. I look forward to your questions.