

Opening Statement by Amy Karpel
Nominee to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission
Before the Senate Committee on Finance Confirmation Hearing
June 12, 2018

Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, members of the Finance Committee, I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee for the position of Commissioner on the U.S. International Trade Commission.

I would like to introduce the members of my family who are here today: my husband, Sloane Strickler, my mother Ann Larson, my brother-in-law Andrew Strickler and my mother-in-law Jo Harriet Haley. I also want to acknowledge those members of my family who couldn't be here today: my father John Karpel, my sister Jennifer Seoane, and lastly my daughter Haley, who is currently enjoying her last week of preschool. I want to thank all of them for their love and support during the confirmation process and over the years.

I am also grateful to Senate Minority Leader Schumer and Senator Wyden for proposing my appointment as Commissioner. I also want to thank Senator Cantwell for her kind introduction and the President for nominating me. I greatly enjoyed meeting individually with members of this Committee leading up to today's hearing and thank them for their time and insights.

I am honored to be nominated for Commissioner because of the important work the Commission does. The Commission is entrusted with the fair, timely and objective administration of our trade remedy laws, including in respect of violations of intellectual property rights. Vigorous enforcement of our trade remedy laws is important because of the relief it provides to help keep U.S. workers employed and U.S. businesses functioning in the face of unfair trade. It is also important because of the role it plays in helping make the case for international trade more broadly. International trade touches nearly all sectors of our economy and is vital to the strength of our economy and the livelihoods of the workers and businesses it supports. If there is not strong enforcement of our trade remedy laws when trade is not fair and when workers or businesses are hurt by trade, it is hard to make that case. If confirmed as Commissioner, I will administer these laws fairly, objectively, and as Congress intended.

The Commission is also responsible for providing the Administration and Congress with objective, expert fact-finding studies and analysis on tariffs, trade and U.S. competitiveness. These studies serve as an independent source of information and analysis for policy makers as they develop and implement trade policy. If confirmed, I commit to carry out this responsibility as Congress intended and to safeguard the independence of the Commission. I will also, if confirmed, work with my fellow Commissioners to be responsive to Congressional requests for information.

I believe my upbringing, background, and experience have prepared me well for the position of Commissioner. I grew up in Washington State along the shores of the Puget Sound. I could see the Port of Olympia in the distance from our house. Container ships and tug boats pulling barges full of logs were a regular feature passing by our house. I was raised by my mother and father, and spent a lot of time with my maternal grandmother. My grandmother split her time between St. Louis and her husband's farm in rural Illinois, and when we were kids, my sister and I used to visit in the summers. My grandmother would prod us awake at 7 am, chiding that we were "sleeping the day away". Lazy was not something you were allowed to be in our family. My parents worked hard, both in their occupations and in life and modeled the

importance of doing your part to improve the world around you. They raised my sister and I to do the same.

Since leaving Washington State, I have spent more than 20 years studying and working on international trade issues. I have worked in private practice representing U.S. workers and businesses in trade remedy proceedings. And, I have worked in public service for almost 13 years, serving most recently as Chief Counsel at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Each of these capacities involved working with the laws the Commission is entrusted to administer, first as an advocate for clients petitioning for relief under those laws and then as a policy maker relying on the sound and objective information and analyses those laws call on the Commission to provide.

And I now look forward, if confirmed, to continuing in public service as a Commissioner on the International Trade Commission. In this role I would not be an advocate or a policy maker as in my previous positions. Instead, I would be a fair, objective, and impartial adjudicator and an independent source of expert information and analysis. It would be an honor to serve in this capacity.

Thank you for your consideration.