

OPENING STATEMENT OF SARAH BIANCHI
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
JUNE 24, 2021

Chair Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, and Members of the Committee: good morning. My name is Sarah Bianchi. I live in Virginia with my husband and two children ages 12 and 10.

I am honored to be with you today as you consider my nomination to be Deputy United States Trade Representative with a portfolio including Africa, Asia, and areas of services and investment. If confirmed, I will proudly serve with the strong team Ambassador Tai has put together to help our country emerge stronger from the pandemic and – as President Biden says – to Build Back Better.

Throughout my career, I have focused on increasing American competitiveness through a wide range of economic and domestic policy issues. I co-led the policy process for President Obama's 2012 State of the Union address, which included global tax policies and manufacturing initiatives to boost wages and improve career opportunities for American workers.

From 2011-2014 I served as Director of Economic and Domestic Policy for then-Vice President Biden. Our work focused on the contributing factors and potential solutions to stop the loss of manufacturing jobs in the United States. I helped lead the extensive research and policy work that informed the 2014 report from the Vice President's office entitled "*Ready to Work: Job-Driven Training and American Opportunity*," which identified several ways to help workers compete in today's global economy.

As a senior advisor at the Biden Institute, I worked on issues to make America more competitive in the global economy, including on trade. And as a member of the Biden-Harris transition team, I led the domestic policy response to COVID-19. At the time, the pandemic was exposing the supply chain vulnerabilities in the American economy. I was pleased to see the Administration launch a trade strike force, chaired by Ambassador Tai, to combat unfair trade practices and increase the resiliency of our supply chains. I look forward to supporting Ambassador Tai's work on this critical issue.

The Administration has been clear about its commitment to making the necessary investments at home and working with allies to address the challenges posed by China. We must have a coordinated and coherent approach that restores the necessary balance to our trade and economic relationship.

Far too often, the review and development of trade policy is separated from the work of creating a competitive economy and a strong middle class. I believe trade must be intricately linked to this effort. I share President Biden and Ambassador Tai's commitment to developing a worker-centered trade policy that encourages a race to the top so we can build back better.

Giving workers a seat at the table will be essential as we develop policy. Ambassador Tai said earlier this month in a speech at the AFL-CIO that "by bringing workers from all backgrounds and experiences to the table, we will create inclusive trade policy that advances economic security and racial and gender equity."

Hearing workers' stories, their experiences, and perspectives will give us a better understanding of how trade has impacted their lives and how we can lift up communities and individuals that

have long been overlooked. This approach will also guide our review of negotiations initiated by the previous administration.

Ambassador Tai has also been clear that any path forward will be done in consultation with Congress. That is exactly what Members of Congress, including those on this Committee, saw first-hand with the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement. USMCA is one of the most pro-worker trade agreements ever implemented because workers had a seat at the negotiating table. It is the new template we must use for all future trade agreements and negotiations.

This approach is essential to America's competitiveness in the 21st century and it must be part of a comprehensive vision for the United States in the global economy.

I have been fortunate to work with leaders who care deeply about America's workers. If confirmed, I will work with Ambassador Tai and the dedicated public servants at USTR to create inclusive trade policy that brings *everyone* along.

Thank you again for considering my nomination and I look forward to answering your questions.