

Opening Statement of Brent Neiman
Nominee to Serve as Deputy Under Secretary/Designated Assistant Secretary of the Treasury
for International Finance and Development
Before the United States Senate Committee on Finance

Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, and distinguished Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as nominee to be Deputy Under Secretary/Designated Assistant Secretary for International Finance and Development at the Treasury Department. I am also deeply grateful to President Biden and to Secretary Yellen for placing their confidence in me.

I would like to introduce my family, most of whom are in Chicago, where I was born and raised and live today. Though I didn't end up far from where I started, my wife Yael moved from Argentina to New York when she was four years old. Her family came to the United States seeking opportunity and they found it as my wife was the first in her family to finish college. We are so proud of our wonderful kids – our eleven-year-old daughter Tal and our eight-year-old son Lev. My parents, Bill and Gail, have always been encouraging and are watching from home right now. I am so appreciative of my entire family's support.

My grandparents are also in my thoughts. My grandmother Margot, who fled from Germany in 1939 to Decatur, Illinois, always encouraged an awareness of world affairs and an understanding of other people, places, and cultures. My grandfather Julie, who ran a small manufacturer, hired me for summer jobs ranging from assembling boxes to coding the company's first web page, and taught me about entrepreneurship and small business. I'm grateful for what they shared with me and imagine that all four of my grandparents would be proud today.

My interest in international macroeconomics started early in high school, when I gave a speech about the ECU (the euro's predecessor) for the final project in my sophomore year speech class. My teacher criticized the topic as hopelessly dry, but I stuck with it. Since then, I've worked as the staff economist for international finance at the Council of Economic Advisers, written a doctoral dissertation at Harvard University, consulted to the IMF and Congressional Budget Office, and presented to central banks all around the world. For the past 13 years, I've also taught a course called "International Financial Policy" at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. I hope I have been able to prove my high school speech teacher wrong and instill some excitement about international economics in the next generation of leaders.

My research has uniquely prepared me to serve in this position, at this time. I've published papers exploring the changing international role of the U.S. dollar and analyzing the financial exposures of U.S. investors to emerging market borrowers, including those that issue securities through offshore affiliates. My work has evaluated the impact of exchange rate movements on productivity during a sudden stop crisis and measured the price response of U.S. imports and exports to trade policies. I've developed models of how economic activity transmits across

borders and used them to understand the formation and resolution of external imbalances. Most recently, I've studied cross-country differences in the ability to work from home during the pandemic.

The past two years have brought unprecedented challenges, with all of us struggling to stay physically safe while doing our best to satisfy economic, educational, and emotional needs. Our government's bold policies have helped tremendously, but many lower-income countries have less capacity to act and face a daunting situation in coming years.

The pandemic has underscored how interconnected the world economy is. Continuing hardship in foreign countries spurs families to leave seeking better opportunities elsewhere. Disruptions in the global supply chain keep our workers waiting for equipment and our consumers waiting for goods that both need. Slow growth abroad restricts markets for American businesses, large and small. Helping to alleviate suffering and restore financial and physical health to the rest of the world is worthy in its own right, but also benefits the U.S. economy and our national security.

The position for which I've been nominated plays a key role in directing Treasury's macroeconomic engagement with other countries, bilaterally and through multilateral institutions including the G-7, G-20, and the IMF. The United States must lead in these engagements and bring about a sustained global recovery with smart, implementable policies that enhance stability and create opportunity for all American workers and their families. If confirmed, working closely with the members and staff of this committee and with the distinguished civil servants in the Office of International Affairs at Treasury, I will dedicate myself fully toward this task.

Thank you again for the privilege of appearing here today and for your consideration of my nomination. I look forward to answering your questions.