

Opening Statement of Lisa Wang
Nominee for Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance,
Department of Commerce
Before the Senate Finance Committee
November 16, 2021

Thank you, Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, members of the Committee. I am humbled and honored to be here today as President Biden's nominee to serve as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Enforcement and Compliance. I am grateful that the Administration has entrusted me with this position, and I am thankful for the support that Secretary Raimondo and her team have shown me.

I would like to begin by thanking my father, Frank Xiaohang Wang. He came to the United States in his early thirties knowing almost no English but believing deeply in the American Dream. He believed that America is a country where hard work would lead to success. He believed that America is a place where fairness matters. It was through his sheer determination and endless optimism that our family rose from near poverty to a cozy life in the suburbs of East Greenbush, New York. My father passed away a few years ago but would have been so delighted to see me here today; taking pictures and trying to shake your hands. There will never be a better cheerleader and I would be remiss to not acknowledge him here.

I would also like to thank my mother, Tina Congying Wang, who worked a lifetime of minimum wage jobs, to afford me the opportunity to be before you today. She has lived her life for her family's health and happiness, and I am proud to have her watching today. There is a straight line from my parents' sacrifices to my success, and I remain forever thankful for their support and guidance. I also want to thank my husband, Tim Kovacs, and my two daughters for their encouragement and support. Thank you for always pushing me to take risks and finding the joy in life.

I came to the United States when I was five years old, not knowing any English but believing deeply in my father's American Dream. This belief is what led me to a career in international trade. I believe that the hard work of American workers and American businesses should not be undercut by unfair trade practices. I have spent my career representing U.S. industries seeking a level playing field against unfair subsidization and dumping. In doing so, I have seen manufacturers go from the brink of closure to capacity expansions because of effective trade enforcement. When our foreign competitors play by the same rules – when trade is fair – no one can beat the American worker.

As an attorney with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, I defended the United States in WTO cases seeking to overturn our U.S. CVD laws and to weaken our trade enforcement objectives. I have led WTO cases against countries like China to stop their use of industrial policies that target U.S. and other export markets. The highlight of my career, however, are the many years that I spent working within Commerce's Enforcement and Compliance (E&C). E&C has a dedicated team of public servants, who work to ensure that our U.S. trade laws are rigorously enforced. As foreign governments and foreign competitors become more

sophisticated in their use of industrial subsidies and other unfair trade practices, we must work harder and smarter to counter these practices.

If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with you to ensure that our U.S. trade remedy laws are transparently and vigorously enforced. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.