

Crapo Statement at Executive Session to Vote on Commerce Nominees.

December 8

Washington, D.C.—U.S. Senator Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, delivered the following remarks at an executive session to vote on the nominations of Maria Louise Lago to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade and Lisa W. Wang to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Enforcement and Compliance.

The text of Ranking Member Crapo's remarks, as prepared, is below.

“Thank you Mr. Chairman.

“Today, we are voting on two nominees who—if confirmed—will play important roles in shaping U.S. trade policy at the Department of Commerce. I intend to support each.

“Ms. Lago, in your opening statement, at your nomination hearing, you noted that you believed in the “power of trade and investment to improve lives.” I share that view. If confirmed as Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, I expect that you will be the vigorous champion for expanding market access opportunities that Americans need today. This Administration can and must do more on this front.

“Ms. Wang, you have extensive trade remedy experience. Our trade remedy laws are important tools to combat unfair trade. Despite a deferential standard of review, U.S. courts routinely find that the Department of Commerce’s determinations are not supported by substantial evidence. This must change.

“Our citizens rely on effective administration of U.S. trade remedy laws. If confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, I want you to ensure that the Department of Commerce’s trade remedy determinations are of the highest quality.

“Thank you for holding this executive session today, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back to you.”

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