

Opening Statement by James B. Coughlan
Nominee to be Member of United States International Trade Commission
Before Senate Committee on Finance Confirmation Hearing
December 18, 2024

Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, and Members of the Committee, I am honored to be here today as a nominee for Commissioner on the U.S. International Trade Commission. I want to thank the Committee for considering my nomination and the President for placing his confidence in me. I also want to thank Senator Durbin for his kind introduction.

I would like to acknowledge the members of my family who are with me here today. I wouldn't be here without the support of my wife, Sheila Nix. I am also very proud of my three children, Emma, Connor, and Caroline. I also want to thank my mentors, colleagues, and friends for their advice over the course of my career.

I was raised in Chicago, along with my four siblings. My Mother, a homemaker, and my father, a proud Chicago public school teacher for over 30 years, instilled in us the importance of hard work and service to our community.

I started my career as a staff attorney at the International Trade Commission. The time I spent at the ITC created the foundation of my legal work which I carried with me throughout my career. There, I took my first depositions, examined witnesses, and made arguments at hearings. The ITC attorneys were great mentors who taught me how to formulate arguments and write clearer and more concise legal briefs. In addition, the administrative law judges were very patient with me, always willing to coach new lawyers through proceedings. Perhaps most importantly, everyone at the ITC shared in its mission to protect American industry, including through the research and analysis the ITC produces to inform Congress and the Executive branch.

After departing the ITC, I continued to hone my skills during my time working for Senator Levin on judicial issues which gave me an opportunity to understand how Congress approaches lawmaking. My time in private practice developed my expertise in Intellectual Property and Trade Secret law, which I believe provides me with a unique lens to bring to ITC proceedings. I have been honored to receive recognition by Chambers Global and Chambers USA for International Trade and Intellectual Property law and was honored to serve as a law clerk for Judge Marion Bennet on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. More recently, I served as the senior vice president and general counsel at the Export Import Bank of the United States, which gave me experience in a leadership position at a federal agency.

I am confident my experience and skills will allow me to meaningfully contribute to the ITC and carry its mission forward. Returning to the ITC as a Commissioner, if I am privileged to be confirmed, would be the capstone of my career, especially serving alongside new and old ITC colleagues. I hope to provide the same mentorship and guidance that was given to me at the start

of my career to those who, too, see the law as a calling and those who approach their legal responsibilities in an ethical, just, and impartial manner. I look forward to answering your questions and, if confirmed, to being a partner to this Committee and the Congress.