



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

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**Statement of U.S. Senator Max Baucus
Hearing to consider the nominations of:**

**Susan C. Schwab, to be Deputy United States Trade Representative;
Karan K. Bhatia, to be Deputy United States Trade Representative;
Franklin L. Lavin, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade;
Clay Lowery, to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury; and
James Halpern, to be U.S. Tax Court Judge**

Good morning. It's a pleasure to welcome you before the Finance Committee. I would like to congratulate all of you on your nominations. All of you come to the Committee strongly recommended and highly qualified.

But no support is more important than that of your families, spouses, and children. I also congratulate them. I have no doubt that without their support you would not be here today.

I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you, and I have worked with many of your predecessors. I look forward to working with all of you.

Judge Halpern, you have earned an excellent reputation in the 15 years you have already served on the tax court. I'm glad that you are willing to serve another term.

Mr. Lowery, you already have a decade of experience at Treasury. You have earned the respect and trust of your superiors.

Ms. Schwab and Mr. Bhatia, you both bring many years of experience in trade and international affairs to USTR. You both will be effective advocates for the United States.

Ambassador Lavin, your long and varied experience in Asia will serve you well as Under Secretary of Commerce. Many of our greatest opportunities and most difficult problems are in Asia.

Your nominations come at a critical point in U.S. economic policy. I believe that we are at a watershed moment.

How we fulfill our international economic agenda today will determine whether younger generations view international trade as a contributor of wealth, or a cause of hardship. How we act today will decide whether our children and grandchildren view China and India as an opportunity, or as a threat.

And how we act today will decide whether international financial and trade institutions are treated with suspicion and derision, or viewed as a forum for hopeful cooperation and progress.

I hope and trust that this is just one of many times that I will see you in the Senate. And I hope that we can cooperate to pursue an international economic agenda that allows future generations to look abroad for hope, opportunity, cooperation, and prosperity. Mr. Chairman, thank you for having today's hearing.

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