

STATEMENT OF ROBERT K. STEEL

NOMINEE FOR UNDERSECRETARY OF DOMESTIC FINANCE,

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Baucus and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am both honored and enthusiastic about being nominated to the position of Undersecretary of the Treasury for Domestic Finance. If confirmed, I look forward to serving the President, the Secretary of the Treasury, and our country in this position. I also look forward to working closely with the Congress on a variety of important issues facing our country. I am also honored as I know many of the people who have held this position previously, and I am humbled to assume these same responsibilities as this group of distinguished public servants.

I am enthusiastic because of the opportunity to work for this Administration and for Secretary Paulson. The Secretary and I have worked closely together for almost three decades. I know him to be a leader of wisdom and integrity and would look forward, subject to confirmation, to being a member of his Treasury team.

I think that my personal and professional background is a good fit for the responsibilities of this position. Recently I retired from Goldman Sachs after nearly 30 years with the firm and over that time have had the opportunity to be a part of the significant evolution and change in the domestic and international capital markets. My career started in 1976 in institutional sales in the company's Chicago office and rose through the ranks to become co-head of institutional sales by 1984.

In 1987, I relocated to London to establish the firm's Equity Capital Markets efforts in Europe. At this time there was movement in Europe to privatize major state-owned enterprises in a transition toward a more market-driven economy. I was directly involved in the efforts to transition these companies which included major telecom, utility and energy holdings of the governments.

In 1996, I became co-head of the Equities Division and joined the firm's Management Committee. Lastly, I was appointed Vice Chairman of the firm and these responsibilities expanded to include many cross-divisional strategic activities. Today I remain an advisor to the firm and play an active role in important issues related to intra-firm training, education and diversity initiatives.

Over the course of my career I have had the benefit of great counsel from many of my colleagues and our esteemed clients. I genuinely believe that these experiences should give me an appropriate foundation to do my best with regard to the responsibilities related to this position.

I have also had the opportunity to participate in the academic and public policy worlds, using my experience to help frame discussions of important issues facing our markets and our economy. If confirmed as Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, I plan on bringing my understanding of financial matters and my commitment to sound public policy to the Treasury Department.

In closing, I want to thank you for your consideration and I want to pledge to you that if confirmed I will fulfill my duties as Undersecretary to the best of my abilities. I welcome your questions.