

**Prepared Statement of Charlotte R. Lane**  
**To the United States Senate Committee on Finance**

I wish to thank the Chairman, Senator Baucus, Senator Grassley, and especially Senator Rockefeller, for making room in the busy schedule of this Committee to conduct this hearing on my nomination to the United States International Trade Commission. I recognize that particularly in these trying and turbulent times there are extreme pressures on the Senators and their Staffs to address numerous legislative issues, schedule and attend fact finding agendas and, just as critical, to be responsive to the many constituents who are demanding of your time. Therefore, I know that you all have scheduled precious time for this hearing on very short notice; and for that I am grateful.

I am a West Virginian, born and bred. I came from a small town on the Ohio River, and grew up with friends and relatives that had ties to agriculture, natural resource production and manufacturing activities. Unlike some areas, where being raised on a farm can place you so far from industrial activities that you can grow up with little direct connection to or understanding of the bricks, mortar and smokestacks of industry, my family's modest farm was located literally in the shadow of a large power plant, in the middle of an oil and natural gas production area and within a few miles of chemical plants, glass plants and other industrial facilities. All involved in domestic and international trade. In fact, my dad actually worked as a laborer at a chemical plant within 3 miles of our farm. He was a member of the OCAW. I grew up aware of the vibrant industrial pulse of this country,

watching barge tows moving commodities along the Ohio River. It is that background that helped me to understand, from an early age, the diversity of industry in this country.

As far as professional background is concerned, my experience as a State Legislator and a State Regulatory Commissioner provide me with a unique understanding of the responsibilities and functions of a quasi-legislative, quasi-judicial, Administrative Body like the ITC. I recognize that I will be expected to perform my judicial responsibilities based on evidence in a fair and impartial manner.

I have spent approximately ten years as a Commissioner on the Public Service Commission of West Virginia. Almost 4 years of that tenure on the Commission were as Chairman. This experience has given me the opportunity to consider the financial impact of utility rates on the regulated utilities and on their customers. While some may consider public utilities as being the antithesis of industries operating in competitive markets, it is the financial and economic evaluation function, not the industries involved, that frame the similarities in duties between my present State Regulatory position and a position on the ITC. My experience as a regulatory commissioner will be valuable in weighing the issues that would come before me for adjudication as a commissioner on the ITC. As a State Regulator in West Virginia, I have learned to evaluate competing, and sometimes conflicting, expert testimony and evidence relating to financial and economic history and projections and to use that evidence to arrive at decisions that fairly consider and balance the interests of all parties.

I further recognize that my focus and energies must be trained on administering the law and legislative intent as set forth by Congress. It is not the duty of an Administrative Agency, whether acting in a quasi-legislative capacity or quasi-judicial capacity, to make the law. My experience as a State Commissioner has helped me to understand the wisdom of that requirement, and I will carry that understanding with me in practice, if you afford me the opportunity to serve on the ITC.

Finally, part of the responsibility of the ITC and an ITC Commissioner is to be responsive to the informational needs of Congress as you consider policy and legislative direction. I know how important it was to me as a member of the State Legislature to be able to rely on unbiased and intellectually honest advice from Administrative Agencies. I will not forget those lessons and, if you give me the opportunity, I will commit to be always mindful of your needs for such unbiased and honest advice whenever such advice on trade related matters is sought.

In closing I would simply say that I felt honored when I was told that I was even being considered for this position. I was even more honored to be the President's nominee. I hope that your evaluation of my background, qualifications, dedication to duty and commitment to perform in the best interest of all citizens of our country will allow you to confirm me as

a Commissioner of the International Trade Commission. If you afford me that honor, I will accept it with humility and the dedication to public service that you have every reason to expect.

Thank you.