

STATEMENT OF SHARA L. ARANOFF  
NOMINATED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
COMMISSION

May 24, 2005

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you and your staff for setting up this hearing so quickly. Having prepared hearing materials for a number of nominees myself, I know how much work is required.

I am honored to be here today as the President's nominee for Commissioner of the United States International Trade Commission. I particularly wish to thank the Democratic Leader, Senator Reid, for his support of my nomination.

Most importantly, I want to thank Senator Baucus, not just for your strong support of my nomination, but for giving me the opportunity to serve on the staff of this Committee for the past four and a half years.

I have been privileged to work with you, and with the Members and staff of the Finance Committee, on a number of important pieces of trade legislation, including the Trade Act of 2002, and the Implementation Acts for our Free Trade Agreements with Singapore, Chile, Australia, and Morocco.

It has also been my privilege to serve the people of Montana. I did not grow up in Montana. But these past four years have given me the opportunity to visit the state, meet Montanans, and become familiar with their lives and their concerns. I hope I have contributed in my own small way to trade policies that will help the workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses of Montana, and the nation, to thrive in the global economy.

I have studied and worked on international trade issues for more than 20 years. My professional experience spans both the public and private sectors and all three branches of government. I believe this broad experience makes me well prepared to serve as an ITC Commissioner. I am excited at the prospect of continuing my commitment to public service in this new capacity.

Although many nominees for ITC Commissioner are experienced trade practitioners, I have a unique perspective. Before joining the staff of the Finance Committee, I worked for more than seven years as a staff attorney in the ITC's Office of General Counsel. In that capacity, I came to know and respect the more than 300 people who make up the Commission and to appreciate the work they do every day for Congress, the Executive Branch, the business community, and the general public. If confirmed, I will be proud to help continue that tradition of service.

The principal responsibility of an ITC Commissioner is the fair, impartial, and vigorous administration of our trade remedy laws. The Commission's antidumping,

countervailing duty, safeguard, and section 337 decisions are under scrutiny every day, both at home and abroad. America's workers, farmers, and businesses need to know that they have recourse when they face unfair or injurious trade practices. The Commission's work also needs to reflect the high standards of objectivity and due process to which we ask our trading partners to adhere.

If confirmed, I will administer these laws objectively, with an open mind, and without substituting any policy bias in place of statutory language and Congressional intent.

While the Commission is not a policy-making agency, it plays a second important role as our Government's source for expert trade advice. When Congress and the President consider new trade agreements or legislation, they rely heavily on the Commission's unbiased fact-finding studies and analysis. If confirmed, I commit to work with you to make the agency's resources as broadly available as possible in support of the legislative process.

I contemplate with some regret the prospect of leaving the Senate and the colleagues I have come to respect and rely upon. At the same time, if I am confirmed as an ITC Commissioner, I look forward to continuing to work with the Members and staff of the Finance Committee on advancing important trade priorities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer any questions.