

Prepared Statement of David Peters

Nominee to be the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate

June 12, 2025

Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Warren, distinguished Senators, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am grateful to President Trump and Commerce Secretary Lutnick and am honored to be their nominee for Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement at the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS).

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge my family. With me today are my wife Kerri, and my parents, Dr. Jon and Joan Peters. I would like to also acknowledge my two wonderful boys, Jack and Connor. No man is an island and without my family's support, I would not be in the position I am today.

My career has been dedicated to public service since graduating from William & Mary Law School in 2008. I served eight years in the United States Marine Corps, deploying to the Helmand Province in Afghanistan where I saw combat on numerous occasions. Following my active-duty service, I joined the Department of Justice in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia, and later the Criminal Division's Fraud Section. I have worked with incredible federal law enforcement agents in my time at DOJ. Their dedication to the safety and security of the United States is truly inspiring.

As a prosecutor, I have personally investigated and prosecuted Export Control Reform Act and International Emergency Economic Powers Act violations related to the unlawful exporting of sensitive technologies and dual-use products. I have prosecuted complex fraud schemes, and criminal networks, including large scale Mexican and Colombian Transnational Criminal Organizations and narco-terrorists.

President Trump and Secretary Lutnick have rightly highlighted export controls and enforcement as a key part of the "America First Trade Policy." Export Enforcement has never been more important than it is at this moment. The largest technological threats we face now are from coordinated-but-decentralized state and non-state actors. These malign actors seek access to critical U.S technology to gain key competitive advantages. The United States leads the world in cutting-edge technologies, including semiconductors, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, telecommunications, and artificial intelligence. To maintain and maximize these advantages, we must rigorously enforce our export control laws. If confirmed, it will be my charge to help ensure our most sensitive technologies do not end up in the world's most dangerous hands. This is not a partisan issue, but a matter of national security.

I am committed to empowering and supporting enforcement officers. At Justice, I worked hand in hand with our law enforcement officers and developed strong relationships and credibility within the community. Our ECOs are on the frontlines, defending against diversion and transshipment of our most sensitive and critical technologies. I support President Trump and Secretary Lutnick's efforts to expand the number of Export Enforcement Agents and our Export Control Officer presence globally. These personnel will ensure we enforce our export controls and prevent diversion and misuse of strategic technologies. We must remain a world-class law enforcement organization, capable of successfully and aggressively investigating and prosecuting individuals and entities who undermine our nation's economic and national security.

The security of the United States and the safety of American citizens has been the through-line of my career. It has been an honor beyond measure to serve my country in my previous and current roles. If confirmed, as Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement, it will be my honor to continue in this mission of protecting and serving others.

I look forward to working with each of you to ensure we rigorously enforce export controls and keep our most sensitive technologies out of the hands of our adversaries. Thank you again for this opportunity and I look forward to your questions.