

**Opening Statement of Abby Warren**  
**Nominee for Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce**  
**Before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs**  
**July 23, 2026**

Thank you, Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Warren, and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to serve as Assistant Secretary for Export Administration at the Bureau of Industry and Security.

I would like to begin by thanking President Trump for nominating me and Secretary Lutnick and Undersecretary Kessler for their support and confidence. I would also like to thank my family, friends, and colleagues who are here with me today, including my parents, Paul and Donna, and my husband, Patrick—he is the most wonderful partner and his encouragement and support have made my public service possible.

Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of serving in all three branches of the federal government. I have worked in the United States Senate, the federal judiciary, and the Executive Branch, where I currently serve as Deputy General Counsel for AI and Technology at the Department of Commerce. Those experiences have provided me with a deep appreciation for our constitutional system, the importance of the rule of law, and the responsibility entrusted to public servants.

Over the past two years, I have worked across the Commerce Department and with interagency partners throughout the federal government to navigate complex legal questions and advance the Department's priorities. Those experiences have prepared me to lead a large organization, manage complex interagency processes, and deliver results in support of the Department's national security and economic missions.

The Bureau of Industry and Security plays a vital role in protecting the national security, economic security, and unmatched technological achievement and scientific innovation of the United States. Export controls are among the most important tools available to ensure that America's most sensitive technologies, products, and expertise do not contribute to the military modernization or strategic ambitions of our adversaries. At the same time, BIS helps preserve the conditions that prevent the theft of American intellectual property and allow American companies, researchers, and innovators to remain the global leaders in developing the technologies that will shape the future.

The evolving landscape presents significant opportunities for BIS to demonstrate its leadership and expand its vital impact. Emerging technologies are developing at unprecedented speed, supply chains are increasingly global, and strategic competitors are devoting substantial resources to acquiring advanced technologies with military and intelligence applications. Meeting these challenges requires a regulatory system that is effective, adaptable, and grounded in close coordination with our allies and partners.

If confirmed, I will faithfully execute the laws enacted by Congress, work to ensure that BIS's export controls are effective and enforceable, and collaborate closely with Congress, our international partners, and stakeholders across government and industry to advance U.S. national security interests.

I am proud of my service at the Department of Commerce and would be honored to continue serving the American people in this new capacity, if confirmed.

Thank you for your consideration of my nomination. I look forward to your questions.