

**Opening Statement of Alan Estevez, Nominee, Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce
Before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
September 21, 2021**

Chairman Brown, Ranking Member Toomey, and distinguished members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you as the nominee to lead the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) as the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security at the Department of Commerce.

I want to thank President Biden and Secretary Raimondo for their confidence in nominating me to this critical national security position. I also want to thank my wife, Susan Pearson, who is with me here to today, for all her support and love, and as I have stated in my previous confirmations, for her sage advice and counsel, in all that I do. Needless to say, I would not be sitting here before you without her support – and sacrifice.

This is a critical time for our nation. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the fragility of numerous supply chains supporting U.S. industries and ordinary Americans across the country. Many of our foreign adversaries continue to act in an irresponsible manner, including through the diversion of dual use technologies to military uses; theft of intellectual property; human rights abuses; and anti-competitive, unfair and coercive trade practices. All of these activities threaten our values and interests, as well as those of our allies and partners.

BIS has a key role, within the context of a whole of government approach, in addressing these threats. Fortunately, Congress, with the bipartisan passage of the Export Control Reform Act, or ECRA, in 2018, has given BIS important authorities to execute that mission.

During my long career with the Department of Defense (DoD), I operated at the nexus of national security and technology, to include overseeing the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and DoD's laboratory infrastructure. I also represented the DoD on the Committee for Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), where I advocated for and helped produce robust responses to attempts to access critical technologies.

As a senior acquisition and logistics official, it was my job to ensure that the U.S. Armed Forces were provided with the best weapon systems in the world to ensure their ability to defend the United States and deter and defeat our adversaries when needed. I view the work of BIS from a similar perspective, though rather than providing the U.S. military with technological overmatch against our adversaries, the mission is to ensure that they do not have access to critical U.S. technologies that can harm our national security and foreign policy interests.

If confirmed, I will lead the dedicated professional staff at BIS to ensure that our export controls prevent the transfer of sensitive U.S. technologies. To do that, I will work to ensure that we are appropriately using all the authorities provided under ECRA. As part of that process, I will ensure that we execute our due diligence in identifying and imposing appropriate controls on those emerging and foundational technologies that need protection.

I also believe it is important to cooperate with our allies and partners to build strong export controls, especially in those areas where our current multilateral regimes do not currently provide adequate protections. If confirmed, I will work with our enforcement arm, leveraging all-source intelligence, to ensure that we monitor exports and aggressively detect violations of our export controls and impose penalties where appropriate. In addition to export controls, I will support the Bureau's other important equities, including continued efforts to address risks in critical supply chains, reviewing transactions before CFIUS, and enforcing our antiboycott requirements. Furthermore, I will work with the BIS staff to ensure they have the resources to accomplish their mission.

Finally, I believe it is important for BIS to work constructively with Congress. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and your staff as we meet the complex challenges facing BIS and our nation. Thank you for your consideration of my nomination, and I look forward to your questions.