

**Opening Statement of Thea Dwosh Rozman Kendler, Nominee, Assistant Secretary for
Export Administration, 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, Members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you as President Biden's nominee for the position of Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration. I want to thank the President and Secretary Raimondo for the trust they have placed in me with this nomination. I am delighted at the prospect of returning to serve the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) and the Commerce Department in this critical role.

It would not be possible for me to take on the role for which I am nominated without the love, support, and encouragement of my family: my children Dava and Micah; my husband, Owen; and my father, Gil Rozman, who planted the seeds of my international public service career. My mother Masha is no longer with us, but I see her legacy in my children, and strive in my work to honor her memory as a lawyer, a public servant, and a lifelong learner.

I sit here before you thanks to the good will and the generosity of the United States. My grandfather Max Dwosh, who at age 99 is watching this hearing online, fled Poland on the eve of the Nazi invasion. The family he had to leave behind was murdered. My grandfather survived in Russia during the war, performing manual labor. At the war's end, after my mother was born, he and his young family left Russia and found a haven in the American Displaced Person Camps in Germany before immigrating to the United States. My mother went on to a long career as a Deputy Attorney General for the great state of New Jersey. My public service is inspired by my gratitude to the people and the Government of the United States for making my family's survival and success possible.

It would be an honor to serve my country in this new role, drawing on my passion for export controls and experience in national security.

I began working on export controls in September 2001 in private practice, then for ten years in the Chief Counsel's Office for BIS, and for the last seven years, in the Counterintelligence and Export Control Section of the Justice Department's National Security Division.

As a national security prosecutor, my work has focused on dismantling procurement networks, thwarting intelligence threats, and deterring economic espionage and other theft of trade secret activities aimed at U.S. industry. With respect to matters that are in the public record, I am particularly proud of: charging global telecommunications company Huawei with operating as a criminal enterprise, stealing trade secrets, and defrauding global financial institutions; charging and obtaining the extradition of an intelligence officer who sought to steal trade secrets from a leading U.S. aviation technology company in Ohio; and numerous other cases that held foreign procurement agents accountable for their illicit activities. I am extraordinarily fortunate for the opportunity to pursue this work, and to do so with such dedicated and professional colleagues.

I believe deeply in the mission of BIS to advance America's national security, foreign policy, and economic objectives through effective export controls and by maintaining and advancing our strategic technological edge. The United States can and should lead in export controls, drawing from innovative spirit of our capitalist system and the decades we have spent forging relationships with our allies. In my twenty-year career as an export controls lawyer, BIS's mission has never been more relevant, particularly as we compete against autocracies for 21st century leadership.

Chief among these concerns is the need to address the challenges posed by efforts to seek U.S. technologies to pursue foreign military modernization and other destabilizing activities, while also striving to manage this competition responsibly. We must appropriately use all available tools to prevent technology transfers to end users and end uses that enable strategies and activities that harm our national security and foreign policy interests.

I recognize that all of this important work is part of a whole-of-government effort, and I also strongly support close collaboration with allies and partners to strengthen our export controls, which are more effective when developed and amplified through multilateral regimes and plurilateral agreements.

Finally, I believe it is important for BIS to work constructively with this Committee and the Congress as a whole to protect our national security and foreign policy interests. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and your staff as we meet the complex challenges facing BIS.

Thank you again for this opportunity to appear before you. I would be pleased to answer your questions.