

S. HRG. 117-702

**NOMINATION OF HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO,
NOMINEE TO BE SECRETARY,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

HEARING

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES SENATE**

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

JANUARY 26, 2021

Printed for the use of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation



Available online: <http://www.govinfo.gov>

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

53-058 PDF

WASHINGTON : 2023

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

MARIA CANTWELL, Washington, *Chair*

AMY KLOBUCHAR, Minnesota	ROGER WICKER, Mississippi, <i>Ranking</i>
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, Connecticut	JOHN THUNE, South Dakota
BRIAN SCHATZ, Hawaii	ROY BLUNT, Missouri
EDWARD MARKEY, Massachusetts	TED CRUZ, Texas
GARY PETERS, Michigan	DEB FISCHER, Nebraska
TAMMY BALDWIN, Wisconsin	JERRY MORAN, Kansas
TAMMY DUCKWORTH, Illinois	DAN SULLIVAN, Alaska
JON TESTER, Montana	MARSHA BLACKBURN, Tennessee
KYRSTEN SINEMA, Arizona	TODD YOUNG, Indiana
JACKY ROSEN, Nevada	MIKE LEE, Utah
BEN RAY LUJAN, New Mexico	RON JOHNSON, Wisconsin
JOHN HICKENLOOPER, Colorado	SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, West Virginia
RAPHAEL WARNOCK, Georgia	RICK SCOTT, Florida
	CYNTHIA LUMMIS, Wyoming

DAVID STRICKLAND, *Staff Director*

MELISSA PORTER, *Deputy Staff Director*

GEORGE GREENWELL, *Policy Coordinator and Security Manager*

JOHN KEAST, *Republican Staff Director*

CRYSTAL TULLY, *Republican Deputy Staff Director*

STEVEN WALL, *General Counsel*

CONTENTS

	Page
Hearing held on January 26, 2021	1
Statement of Senator Wicker	1
Article dated January 25, 2021 in <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> by Robert	
St. John entitled, “Closing Time for Bars and Restaurants”	23
Statement of Senator Cantwell	2
Statement of Senator Thune	26
Statement of Senator Klobuchar	28
Statement of Senator Blunt	30
Statement of Senator Blumenthal	31
Statement of Senator Fischer	32
Statement of Senator Schatz	34
Statement of Senator Cruz	35
Statement of Senator Markey	37
Statement of Senator Moran	39
Statement of Senator Baldwin	40
Statement of Senator Sullivan	41
Statement of Senator Peters	43
Statement of Senator Blackburn	45
Statement of Senator Duckworth	46
Statement of Senator Capito	48
Statement of Senator Tester	49
Statement of Senator Johnson	51
Article dated January 25, 2021 in <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> by Andy	
Kessler entitled, “Online Speech Wars Are Here to Stay”	53
Statement of Senator Sinema	55
Statement of Senator Scott	56
Statement of Senator Rosen	58
Statement of Senator Young	60

WITNESSES

Hon. Jack Reed, U.S. Senator from Rhode Island	4
Hon. Sheldon Whitehouse, U.S. Senator from Rhode Island	6
Hon. Gina M. Raimondo, Nominee to be Secretary, U.S. Department of Com-	
merce	7
Prepared statement	8
Biographical information	9

APPENDIX

Letter dated January 21, 2021 to Hon. Maria Cantwell and Hon. Roger	
Wicker from Timothy J. DelGiudice, Chairman, SENEDIA Board of Direc-	
tors	62
Letter dated January 22, 2021 to Hon. Roger Wicker and Hon. Maria Cant-	
well from Tim Walz, Governor, State of Minnesota	63
Letter dated January 25, 2021 to Hon. Maria Cantwell and Hon. Roger	
Wicker from David M. Chenevert, Executive Director, Rhode Island Manu-	
facturers Association	65
Letter dated January 25, 2021 to Hon. Roger Wicker and Hon. Maria Cant-	
well from Charles D. Baker, Governor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts	66
Letter dated January 25, 2021 to Hon. Roger Wicker and Hon. Maria Cant-	
well from Roger J. Dow, President and CEO, U.S. Travel Association	68
Letter dated January 25, 2021 to Hon. Maria Cantwell and Hon. Roger	
Wicker from the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR)	70

IV

	Page
Letter dated January 26, 2021 to Hon. Maria Cantwell and Hon. Roger Wicker from Dennis Slater, President, Association of Equipment Manufacturers	72
Response to written questions submitted to Hon. Gina M. Raimondo by:	
Hon. Maria Cantwell	73
Hon. Amy Klobuchar	74
Hon. Richard Blumenthal	75
Hon. Edward Markey	75
Hon. Gary Peters	76
Hon. Tammy Baldwin	77
Hon. Tammy Duckworth	78
Hon. Kyrsten Sinema	79
Hon. Jacky Rosen	81
Hon. Roger Wicker	81
Hon. John Thune	84
Hon. Roy Blunt	85
Hon. Ted Cruz	88
Hon. Dan Sullivan	96
Hon. Marsha Blackburn	99
Hon. Mike Lee	100
Hon. Ron Johnson	102
Hon. Todd Young	102
Hon. Rick Scott	104

**NOMINATION OF HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO,
NOMINEE TO BE SECRETARY,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253, Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. Roger Wicker, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Wicker [presiding], Thune, Blunt, Cruz, Fischer, Moran, Sullivan, Blackburn, Capito, Johnson, Young, Scott, Cantwell, Klobuchar, Blumenthal, Schatz, Markey, Peters, Baldwin, Duckworth, Tester, Sinema, Rosen, Reed, and Whitehouse.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ROGER WICKER,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MISSISSIPPI**

The CHAIRMAN. Hearing will come to order. Thank you for being here, in person some of us and some of us remotely. Today, we are considering the nomination of Governor Gina Raimondo to be the next Secretary of Commerce. I want to thank Senator Cantwell for joining me in holding this important confirmation hearing. And I want to take a moment to thank former Secretary Ross for his service and for working with me and my staff over the past 4 years.

Governor Raimondo has strong professional qualifications which demonstrate her intelligence and dedication to public service. As an elected official and former venture capitalist, she will bring a valuable perspective to the Department of Commerce regarding the economic challenges that face our Nation as we continue our work to move out of this pandemic. I look forward to hearing from Governor Raimondo today on her and President Biden's goals for the Department of Commerce if she is confirmed as Secretary, which I expect will certainly occur.

This confirmation hearing is just the starting point for our conversation about vital policy matters, including responding to the economic damage caused by the pandemic, investing in our people and small businesses, ensuring that American workers and manufacturers can compete fairly in the global market, growing the marine economy through the promotion of transportation, seafood, shipbuilding, and technological innovation and research, promoting 5G deployment and increasing rural broadband access, improving our Nation's cyber security, and elevating space commerce at the

Department. These issues are critically important to my constituents in Mississippi and to all Americans. I believe Governor Raimondo, as Governor of a maritime state, understands the need for effective oceans and fisheries policies. I hope she will be a strong advocate on these issues as Secretary of Commerce.

I appreciate that Governor Raimondo is testifying remotely today. Let me say to the members and our guests who are listening that Governor Raimondo offered to come and attend this hearing in person, but after consultation with me and Senator Cantwell, we certainly agreed that the Governor is needed for pressing duties back in Rhode Island as she is still serving as Governor during trying times there.

So, I appreciate her willingness to accommodate us and I look forward to hearing her thoughts on how we can work together to find solutions to the challenges before us. I want to thank Governor Raimondo for appearing before this committee today and for her willingness to serve her country in this prominent and essential role. Senator Cantwell.

**STATEMENT OF HON. MARIA CANTWELL,
U.S. SENATOR FROM WASHINGTON**

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize in advance if I go a little long, but a lot of things to cover. But first, I too want to congratulate Governor Raimondo on being nominated to be Secretary of Commerce. I, too, am excited about her nomination and the fact that she has both public and private sector experience. I think that this will be a big help to us and to the Biden Administration as we work on a variety of commerce issues from trade, competition, economic stability, growing opportunities for all Americans. Governor Raimondo's record in the public sector, working on how to empower entrepreneurs and skilled workers as part of the Real Jobs Rhode Island Initiative, I think is exactly the kind of skill set that we need to match the skills development and the business needs to better grow our economy.

I, too, am grateful for her understanding of important issues as it relates to both science and to fisheries. Having a great deal of understanding of oceans, fisheries and the investment in science I think will greatly help us at the Department of Commerce, where the budget oversight is a very big task of the Secretary of Commerce. And as we have, I think more than a dozen members of this committee, including you, Mr. Chairman, who these maritime oceans and fisheries issues are very big issues, particularly in a changing climate, couldn't come at a better time to have a Secretary of Commerce who really does understand fish issues.

So, I appreciate that about her, and I appreciate that she will lead the agency in making decisions based on science and data that will help our economy grow in the future, everything from these oceans' issues and fisheries to spectrum and space issues. I hope that she will speak out today and say that she opposes any kind of censorship of scientific information at the Department and at NOAA, and that she fully expects to hear from scientists on these important issues. We in the Pacific Northwest know that we can't always agree on issues, but we know we can agree on science. And that is why science needs to continue to prevail. Also, we need to

make sure that this issue of spectrum and the issues related to spectrum are treated as important as well, let me actually go for a second to the science and fisheries issues for a second. There are a whole host of issues where we need smart strategies, smart strategies on salmon recovery, stormwater, and habitat investments.

We need smart strategies on our orca population that is threatened in Puget Sound. We need smart strategies on stock assessments and fishery management strategies. I know my colleague from Alaska could weigh in on this issue, but smart fishery management strategies are what will help save our fisheries in an ever-changing economy. In 2018, commercial fishermen caught more than 9.8 billion pounds of seafood, and that in turn supported seafood processors, shipbuilders, trade, and restaurant jobs, and marine anglers took more than 194 million fishing trips, which fueled our outdoor recreational economy. So, in total, there are more than a million jobs in the seafood sector and there are important science issues that need to be addressed there as I mentioned. So, the other area that I was mentioning is this issue of spectrum and weather forecasting. And in my opinion, there is no reason why the United States should not be a leader in weather forecasting. This is an important issue for us, whether you are talking about fires or you are talking about ocean issues.

So, making a better, crucial investment in the science for maritime, aviation, space, and agriculture industries will be very important for us moving forward. During the last 4 years, the FCC, I believe, ran roughshod over concerns raised by various committees within Congress on these airwave issues critical to weather data adjacent to the 24 gigahertz band, critical to systems dependent on GPS and threatened by the Ligado decision. So, I am hoping that a Commerce Secretary will take these issues and help the Administration prioritize how we can get on the same page and also work with us on these important issues of National Security. The Chairman worked so hard on the issues with Huawei, and rip and replace, and making sure that the American infrastructure was going to be secure from the future of threats and violations. I hope the Commerce Secretary will work with us on these security issues on our communication system as we move forward. And the Secretary will inherit a new program as part of the COVID bill, the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.

In 2019, a report from FCC found that less than half of households in Indian country have access to high-speed broadband services, a 20 percent gap from non-tribal areas. And so, I hope that we will be able to get good administration of that program. As the Chairman mentioned, one of the key responsibilities will be in response to the larger COVID pandemic in the country and what we should do about it. I hope that the Secretary of Commerce will play an important role in strengthening our economy, in trying to defeat the pandemic and recover from its economic impacts. I think this is a critical job of the Commerce Secretary as we continue to see the impacts of COVID on our economy. Again, seafood exports dropped by 31 percent since 2020 and 44 percent since February 2020. So, all of our sectors have been impacted and Congress has appropriated \$600 million in fisheries assistance for state and trib-

al needs, but so far, the fishermen in our state have yet to receive one dollar from this program.

So, I hope that we can get her assistance in implementing and moving forward on this, as well as working with us on other aspects of COVID relief package moving forward, particularly in the area of manufacturing. I know my colleague from Kansas, Senator Moran and I are very interested in how we continue to keep an aerospace manufacturing sector going at a time when we have seen a decrease in demand. And the COVID pandemic will also help us deal with minority-owned businesses who were greatly impacted by the pandemic and have received less help and support. So, the Office of Minority Business Development, I believe, is an agency that can help focus us on these issues. And the Department of Commerce, I think, continues to have a leadership role in our competitiveness as a nation.

I hope that we will continue to look at this issue of competitiveness. In my state, one in four jobs are related to trade, and I hope that the Secretary and the Administration will make a goal for export advancement. Increasing exports is a great way to grow our economy. The last Democratic Administration had a goal of increasing exports 50 percent over a 5-year window and came pretty close to making that. I hope that we will continue to move our trade export agenda and that the Secretary of Commerce will help on that. And then last, the census. We don't need a politicization of the census. We need accurate data and information. For every 100-household missed in the 2020 census, the state could lose up to \$5.8 million. So, we need to get this right because children and veterans and seniors and families are dependent on how this formula works, and I hope that we will have a less political process, but one that gives us an accurate census moving forward.

So, Governor Raimondo, that is a big agenda to cover for Secretary of Commerce. But as I said, very confident that your public and private sector experience will help us deal with these issues and your great depth of knowledge, both about the competitiveness that America needs, both from the perspective of the outside in the private sector as well as Governor, will help us steer through this current pandemic challenge and on to better economic times. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Cantwell, for that very fine opening statement. And now we turn to our nominee, Governor Raimondo. Your prepared statement will be included in the record as submitted, and we ask you to summarize any comments you might have in 5 minutes. You are recognized.

Senator REED. Chairman, when are the introductions from her home state going to come?

The CHAIRMAN. Oh, OK. Well, we just received a flash notice that there will be introductions from Senators from Rhode Island. Did I hear the voice of Senator Jack Reed.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JACK REED,
U.S. SENATOR FROM RHODE ISLAND**

Senator REED. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, you are recognized, sir.

Senator REED. Thank you, Chairman Wicker and thank you Ranking Member Cantwell. I have had the privilege of knowing the Governor for several years, in fact, since 1971. I was a new Second Lieutenant, just graduated from West Point. I drove to my family's modest summer cottage in Narragansett, Rhode Island, to check in with my folks before I hit the beach. We lived next door to the Piero family, wonderful neighbors. Mr. Piero was a cook in a business club in Providence, Rhode Island. And just before I left, my mother said, go next door, Josephine just had a new baby. Josephine was the Piero's daughter. I weighed the joys of the beach versus the command of my mother, and I quickly went next door. I saw Josephine holding an almost 2-month-old little girl. I said, "she is cute. What is her name?" Gina said Josephine Raimondo. Our families summered together year after year, so I saw and heard of the Governor's remarkable progress.

She attended my high school La Salle Academy, where she excelled. By the way, that is also Senator Toomey's high school. She was accepted into Harvard College, where she again excelled. Upon graduation, she was awarded one of those prestigious scholarships in the world, a Rhodes scholarship. After graduating from Oxford, she had her law degree at Yale University. After clerkship in the Federal district court, she turned her formidable talents to business. In her finance and investment work, she learned about business and innovation from small startups to large corporations to bring that wealth of experience, practical experience to the Department of Commerce.

In 2010, she was elected the General Treasurer of the state of Rhode Island. She took on tough issues and hammered out practical solutions. In 2014, she was elected the first woman to serve as the Governor of the state of Rhode Island. She was reelected in 2018. As Governor, she has led with extraordinary distinction. In the wake of the pandemic, she rallied the people of Rhode Island with straight talk and quickly established an outstanding team of physicians and medical experts to guide the state's efforts. She has made bold changes to the economy to improve its direction. Understanding the centrality of education now and the increasing urgency in the future, she created a program of free tuition at the Community College of Rhode Island for low-income Rhode Islanders.

She realigned work skills training with the needs of business. She joined Senator Whitehouse and me in helping to modernize our infrastructure and completed the Nation's first offshore wind power system. She spurred investment and job creation in our state so that prior to the pandemic we had a record number of jobs and our lowest unemployment rate in 30 years. Now, I would like to say all of this is the result of meeting me at the formative age of 2 months, but I can't. What I can say about her is she is the proud daughter of working-class parents. They serve the Nation and their community and left an example of hard work and helping to build opportunity for all.

As such, Governor Raimondo knows that the true test of the Secretary of Commerce is a flourishing main street, not simply a beautiful Wall Street. I can say with complete confidence after battling the COVID epidemic, after invigorating our economy, with a firm

commitment to working families like our own, there is no better choice for the Secretary of Commerce at this time than Governor Gina Raimondo. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Senator Reed. I am told Senator Whitehouse is also lined up to make an opening statement. Sir, are you there?

Senator WHITEHOUSE. I am here, Chairman Wicker.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Whitehouse is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,
U.S. SENATOR FROM RHODE ISLAND**

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Thank you for this opportunity. Thank you also to Chairman-to-be Cantwell. I cannot top Senator Jack Reed in the length of my association with Governor Raimondo back to diapers, but I can assure all of my colleagues, Republican and Democrat alike, that you will like working with Secretary Raimondo. She is smart, she is practical, she is results oriented, and she likes getting stuff done. As Governor of Rhode Island, she focused on the economy, a critical part of the Commerce Secretary's beat. She added record numbers of jobs. The unemployment rate fell to the lowest point in three decades. The minimum wage rose four times. Protections for low wage workers improved. New job training programs went into effect, and Rhode Island became particularly a national hub for offshore wind.

In solving the offshore wind dilemma, Governor Raimondo broke the logjam of offshore wind siting that had prevented any state in the United States from getting offshore wind turbines up. Now off of Rhode Island there is steel in the water and there are electrons on the grid. So, Governor Raimondo will be a successful Commerce Secretary on the economy, growing our economy nationally and creating jobs nationally, just as she did in Rhode Island. But I am just as excited about her role as the new Secretary of what I call oceans and commerce. We have seen, and Chairman Wicker has been an important part as well as Ranking Member Cantwell, enormous bipartisan progress on oceans. There is an open lane on oceans for an energetic and bright Secretary to move issues forward in an almost unprecedented way. Our oceans, as many of us who come from coastal states know, are in serious peril from an array of threats, and NOAA has long been overlooked and underfunded.

So, having an ocean state Governor to oversee NOAA's work is something that is very exciting. She has experience and familiarity with the issues around storm surge, sea level rise, ocean plastics, pirate fishing, fisheries management and many other challenging areas. As Governor, she established task forces on plastic waste, developed a collaborative relationship between wind developers and fishermen that saw to the success of our offshore wind programs, focused on coastal resiliency and the need of our coastlines to be defended from inevitable sea level rise and worsening storms, and she focused on our blue economy, which in Rhode Island is an incredibly important part not only of our financial well-being, but of our heritage as well.

Governor Raimondo will be the Secretary for oceans and commerce we have long needed. As important as her successes in this area is also what Jack referred to, and that is her grounding and

her roots. She recognizes the values that matter most to Rhode Islanders and I think to people around the country, that if you work hard, you should never have to struggle to feed your family. You should have access to good health care and quality housing. You should be able to live in a safe and clean environment, and you should be able to send your kids to a good, reliable school. Her values will serve Americans very, very well. And I will end where I began. I am very confident that my colleagues will like working with Secretary Raimondo.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. And I am going to put Senator Reed and Senator Whitehouse down as firm yeses on confirmation. And Governor Raimondo, we are delighted to have you remotely, and you are now recognized for 5 minutes.

**STATEMENT OF HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO, NOMINEE TO BE
SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you Ranking Member Cantwell. Special thank you to Senators Reed and Whitehouse for your friendship, support, and such kind opening remarks. Thank you to both of you. It is an honor to come before this committee today as President Biden's nominee for United States Secretary of Commerce. Over the past few weeks, I have enjoyed talking with many of the members. I want to thank you this morning for your time and tell you how much I appreciated hearing your insights and perspectives on the important work of the Commerce Department.

Commerce Department has a simple but vital mission, to spur good paying jobs, empower entrepreneurs to innovate and grow, and help American workers and businesses compete. These are the same priorities that have guided my own life and my own career. Like most of you, like many of you, I was raised to appreciate the value of hard work and good family-supporting jobs. When I was growing up here in Rhode Island, Rhode Island was a national epicenter of jewelry manufacturing, and those factories supported thousands of families all across my state. My dad always used to say there was something special about a job in manufacturing, the dignity of a job when you spent your day making things.

But by the 1980s, the factories started closing, jobs were shipped overseas, and thousands of working-class Rhode Islanders found themselves suddenly out of work. My father was one of those Rhode Islanders after a long career at the Bulova watch factory, he was forced into early retirement in his 50s and it was a rough time for my family. And so, I know the pain that losing a job can cause a family, and as Governor I have seen that pain in communities all across Rhode Island where people have lost their jobs to offshoring or outsourcing and more recently in the pandemic. At its heart, the Commerce Department is about opportunity, the opportunity to start or grow a business, the opportunity to get a good stable job, the opportunity to pursue the American dream regardless of where you live. I have been blessed in my life to have an opportunity to get a great education that put me on a path to success. I started a venture capital firm to help entrepreneurs start and grow their own businesses.

I served as State Treasurer to shore up Rhode Island's finances. And for the past 6 years, it has been my great honor to serve the people of Rhode Island as their Governor. When I started my campaign for Governor, as Senator Reed said, Rhode Island had the highest unemployment rate in the country for eight straight months in a row. And so, we had to get to work to get Rhode Islanders back to work. By the time the pandemic hit, we had the lowest unemployment rate in over 30 years and the most jobs ever in our state's history. We did it by investing in people through workforce training programs, bringing dozens of new businesses to the state, and empowering small business owners. We launched the Real Jobs Rhode Island Training Initiative, which is partnered with 1,800 companies and provided skills to 11,000 Rhode Islanders. And we created the state's first small business loan program, which has empowered hundreds of Rhode Island entrepreneurs so far, more than half of whom are women or people of color.

In this time of overlapping crisis, the Commerce Department must be a partner to businesses and workers to help them innovate and grow. First, we need to immediately address the economic damage caused by the pandemic. COVID has touched every community: urban, rural, suburban, tribal and exacerbated the longstanding inequities facing low-income families. Second, we need to ensure that American workers and manufacturers can compete fairly on the global playing field. We need to invest in innovation and technology in a manufacturing sector and take aggressive trade enforcement actions to combat unfair trade practices from China and other nations that undercut American manufacturing. And third, we need to recognize that tackling climate change is a pressing priority but goes hand in hand with creating good paying jobs.

None of this will be possible without the incredible, hardworking public servants of the Department of Commerce, and I am excited to lead that team, a team with experienced, dedicated public servants at the Commerce Department. Some of the brightest minds and very best scientists in America. If I am confirmed, it will be an honor to learn from them and lead them. Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement and biographical information of Ms. Raimondo follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO, NOMINEE TO BE SECRETARY,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Cantwell, and members of the committee—it is an honor to come before you today as President Biden's nominee for United States Secretary of Commerce. Over the past few weeks, I've had the chance to speak with many of you about the critical work of the Commerce Department; to share with you my experience and vision; and to hear your important perspectives. I want to thank you for your time and insight.

The Commerce Department has a simple but vital mission—to spur good-paying jobs, empower entrepreneurs to innovate and grow, and help American workers and businesses compete. These same priorities have guided my life and career.

I was raised to appreciate the value of hard work and a good, family-supporting job. When I was growing up, Rhode Island was the national epicenter of jewelry manufacturing, and those factories sustained thousands of families in my state. There's something special about a job in manufacturing—about making things, about having dignity and pride in your work. But by the 80s, the factories started closing, jobs were shipped overseas, and thousands of working-class Rhode Islanders

suddenly found themselves out-of-work. My dad was one of those Rhode Islanders. After a long career at the Bulova watch factory, he was forced into early retirement in his 50s, and our family had to cut back.

I know the pain that losing a job causes a family, and I've seen that pain in communities that have lost jobs to outsourcing and to the pandemic.

At its heart, the Commerce Department is about opportunity. The opportunity to start or grow a business. The opportunity to get a good, stable job. The opportunity to pursue the American Dream, regardless of where you live.

Thanks to my dad's hard work, I had the opportunity for a great education that put me on a path to success. I started a venture capital firm to help entrepreneurs start a business. I ran for state treasurer to shore up Rhode Island's finances. And for the past six years, I have had the honor of serving as Rhode Island's governor.

When I started my campaign for governor, Rhode Island had the highest unemployment rate in the nation—for eight straight months. So we got to work. And by the time the pandemic hit, we had the lowest unemployment in over 30 years and the most jobs in state history. We did it by investing in our people through workforce training programs, bringing dozens of new businesses to the state, and empowering small business owners. We launched the Real Jobs Rhode Island training initiative, which has partnered with 1,800 companies and provided skills to 11,000 Rhode Islanders. And our small business loan program—the first in state history—has empowered 150 Rhode Island entrepreneurs so far—more than half of whom are women or people of color.

In this time of overlapping crises, the Commerce Department must be a partner to businesses and their workers to help them innovate and grow.

First, we need to immediately address the economic damage caused by the pandemic. COVID has touched every community—urban, suburban, rural, tribal—and exacerbated long-standing inequities facing low-income families and communities of color. We need to make investments across America and ensure every family, regardless of where they live, has an accessible pathway to a good job. If confirmed as Commerce Secretary, I look forward to scaling and deploying additional resources to businesses and workers—with a focus on regions and communities that have often been left behind—to help them bounce back and grow stronger than ever. And to accomplish that, I look forward to listening to, and engaging with, federal, state, local, tribal, and industry leaders.

Second, we need to ensure that American workers and manufacturers can compete fairly on the global playing field. We need to invest in innovation and technology in our manufacturing sector and take aggressive trade enforcement actions to combat unfair trade practices from China and other nations that undercut American manufacturing. If confirmed, I look forward to deploying the full resources of the agency to keep the American worker at the center of U.S. trade policy and to reinvigorate American manufacturing by reshoring jobs that have gone overseas. When given a fair chance, no one can out-compete the American worker and small business.

And third, we need to recognize that tackling climate change goes hand-in-hand with creating good-paying jobs. As governor, I expanded clean energy jobs, oversaw construction of the Nation's first offshore wind farm, and put Rhode Island on a path to 100 percent renewable power. Like President Biden, I know the climate crisis poses an existential threat to our economic security, and we must meet this challenge by creating millions of good, union jobs that power a more sustainable economy. The Commerce Department has the tools, data, and expertise to help communities and businesses address the climate crisis and become more resilient in the face of climate change.

None of this will be possible without the incredible, hardworking public servants at the Department of Commerce. There are many reasons I am excited about this chance to serve the American people. But the opportunity to work together with the experienced, dedicated public servants at the Commerce Department is at the top of the list. Some of the brightest minds in the Federal government—indeed some of the best scientists in America—are at the Commerce Department, and they deserve leadership that's supportive, transparent, and driven toward a common mission—building a stronger, more equitable, and more resilient American economy. If I am confirmed, it will be an honor to lead this team.

Thank you for this opportunity, and I'm happy to take your questions.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used): Gina Marie Raimondo.
2. Position to which nominated: Secretary of Commerce.

3. Date of Nomination: January 8, 2021.
4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):
 Residence: Information not released to the public.
 Office: Office of the Governor, 82 Smith St., Providence, RI 02903.
5. Date and Place of Birth: 5/17/1971, born in Providence RI.
6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).
 Spouse: Andrew Kind Moffit, Chief People Officer, PathAI, 1325 Boylston, Boston, MA.
7. List all college and graduate degrees. Provide year and school attended.
 - Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, B.A. Economics, attended 1989–1993; Unpublished thesis: Misuse of American health care facilities (1993)
 - New College, Oxford University, D.Phil in Sociology 2003; M.Litt. in Economics 1996, attended 1993–1995; Unpublished thesis: Determinants of single motherhood in the United States (2002)
 - Yale Law School, New Haven, CT, J.D., attended 1995–1998
8. List all post-undergraduate employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

Highlighted Experiences:

- 2015 to present, Governor, State of Rhode Island, Providence, RI; lead state government and all Executive Branch departments and agencies; during my time in office, we created thousands of jobs, made record investments in infrastructure and education, and became the fourth state in the country to offer tuition-free community college for every high school graduate
- 2010–2014, General Treasurer, State of Rhode Island, Providence, RI; oversaw state's financial accounts and pension investments, disbursements and managed state's bond issuances
- 2001–2010, General Partner, Point Judith Capital, Providence, RI; investor in early-stage medical device and healthcare services companies
- October 1999–2001, Senior Vice President of Fund Development, VillageVentures, New York, NY; established national network of small, early-stage venture capital funds in more than 10 cities

Other Experiences:

- August 1998–August 1999, Judicial Law Clerk, Honorable Kimba Wood, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, New York, NY
 - June 1998–August 1998, Summer Associate, Paul, Weiss & Rifkind, New York, NY
 - June 1997–August 1997, Summer Intern, U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Employment Discrimination Section; Washington, DC
 - June 1996–August 1996, Intern, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Policy Development, Washington, DC
 - June 1995–August 1995, Summer Associate, McKinsey & Company, NY, NY
 - June 1993–August 1993, law librarian, Hinckley, Allen & Snyder, Providence, RI
9. Attach a copy of your résumé. Attached at Appendix A.
 10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above, within the last ten years.

I have not served in any Federal or local government positions in the last ten years. As Governor, and before that as General Treasurer, I have served, by law, on various state government boards and commissions. I have listed the principal ones below. I have not included boards or commissions where I appointed a designee to serve.

Entity	Position(s)
Rhode Island Commerce Corporation	Chair (2015 to present) (ex officio as Governor)
Rhode Island State Investment Commission	Former Chair (2011–2015) (ex officio as General Treasurer)
Rhode Island Retirement Board	Former Chair (2011–2015) (ex officio as General Treasurer)
Rhode Island Student Loan Authority	Former Board member (2011–2015) (ex officio as General Treasurer)

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution within the last ten years.

Entity	Position(s)
Organizing Together 2020 (501(c)(4))	Former Co-chair (2020)
Rhode Island Commerce Corporation	Chair of the Board (2015 to present) (ex officio as Governor)
Truth Initiative Board of Directors	Former Member (2017–2021)
Yale Corporation	Former Trustee (2014–2021) Former Chair, Audit Committee
Democratic Governors Association	Member (2015 to present) Former Chair (2019)
Crossroads Rhode Island Board of Directors	Former Vice Chair (2018)
Family Service of Rhode Island	Former Vice Chair of the Board (2010–2014)
LaSalle Academy	Former Board Member
Steering Committee of Cherrystone Angel Group	Former Board Member
Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island	Former Member
	Former Trustee Former Chair, Quality Committee

12. Please list each membership you have had during the past ten years or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, you do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution.). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

Board or Commission	Position(s)
Campaign for Free College Tuition	Former Advisory Council Co-Chair (2019–2021)
Council on Foreign Relations	Member (2012 to present)
Rhode Island Commodores	Admiral (2015 to present) (ex officio as Governor)
The Aspen Institute—Rodel Fellowship	Rodel Fellow, Class of 2011
Yale University Council	Former Advisory Member (elected to Yale Corporation in 2014)

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

- Governor of Rhode Island, 2015 to present; candidate for Governor 2014, 2018
- Treasurer of Rhode Island, 2011–2015; candidate for Treasurer 2010
- There are no campaigns with outstanding debts.

14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities. None.

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$500 or more for the past ten years.

To the best of my recollection, I have not made any Federal campaign contributions in the past ten years. To the best of my recollection, I have made the following Rhode Island campaign donations of \$500 or more in the past ten years:

Recipient	Date	Amount
RI DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE	01/24/2014	\$3500
Grace Diaz	09/12/2016	\$500
Nicholas Anthony Mattiello	01/17/2017	\$1000
RI DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE	11/16/2017	\$4000
RI DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE	11/16/2017	\$1000

In addition to these donations, in the last ten years I made a \$50,000 loan to my own campaign in 2014. The campaign repaid that loan in full.

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

- “Outstanding Mother,” 41st Annual Outstanding Mother Awards, Thursday, May 9, 2019, awarded to Gina Raimondo and others. The National Mother’s Day Committee, an entity of the Father’s Day/Mother’s Day Council, each year confers “Outstanding Mother” honors to recognize exceptional women for successfully building their careers, nurturing their families and helping improve the lives of others.
- “Italo-American Person of the Year,” October 20, 2018, awarded to Gina Raimondo by the Italo-American Club of Rhode Island.
- Rhodes Scholarship, 1993
- Allyn Young Award for outstanding undergraduate thesis in the Economics Department, Harvard University, 1993

17. Please list each book, article, column, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. Also list any speeches that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Do not attach copies of these publications unless otherwise instructed.

Publications

During my time in office, I have authored or co-authored many articles related to my work and priorities. Below is a list of publications which I have been able to identify from my records and electronic searches. Links are provided where available.

Title	Source	Date(s) of Publication	Link
Women are bearing the brunt of the economic crisis. They must lead our recovery plans.	Washington Post	10/8/20	Link
It’s time to get serious about the skills crisis in America	Boston Globe	9/8/20	Link
My Turn: Gina Raimondo: R.I. should not gamble with 1,100 jobs	Providence Journal	8/3/19	Link
R.I. needs to invest in the younger generation with universal Pre-K	The Westerly Sun	5/11/19	Link
Rhode Islanders deserve another 4 years of growth	The Westerly Sun	10/14/18	
New economic tools can add to Quonset’s success	The Westerly Sun	11/15/17	Link
Cutting the cost of college textbooks	The Brown Daily Herald	10/19/17	Link
Congress Must Protect the Dreamers from Expulsion	Newsweek	10/19/17	Link
Revitalizing manufacturing for 21st century	The Westerly Sun	5/12/17	Link
R.I. needs line-item veto, other reforms	Providence Journal	3/18/17	Link
A Message From The Governor: Vibrant And Prosperous Opportunities Are Growing For Rhode Island	Rhode Island Small Business Journal: Volume 6, Issue 1	1/23/17	Link

Title	Source	Date(s) of Publication	Link
R.I. Now More Prosperous And Vibrant	Providence Journal	1/1/17	Link
It's time to invest in our ports; vote yes on Question 5	independentri.com	11/3/16	Link
RI now among big names in tech job sector	The Westerly Sun	9/27/16	Link
Rhode Island governor: How a small state made a big breakthrough in high tech job growth	Quartz	9/26/16	Link
Restoring faith in government	The Westerly Sun	5/27/16	Link
Rhodeworks Finally Addresses R.I. Crisis	Providence Journal	3/20/16	
Treasury's 2014 Accomplishments	Rhode Island Small Business Journal: Volume 3, Issue 11	12/6/2014	Link
Improving the Integrity of Our State's Retirement System	Rhode Island Small Business Journal: Volume 3, Issue 10	11/10/14	Link
EverFi: Financial Literacy Program	Rhode Island Small Business Journal: Volume 3, Issue 9	10/3/14	Link
Treasury Continuing to Achieve Great Results for Rhode Islanders	Rhode Island Small Business Journal: Volume 3, Issue 8	9/4/14	Link
The Municipal Road and Bridge Revolving Fund	Rhode Island Small Business Journal: Volume 3, Issue 7	8/11/14	Link
Smart Money Tour is Back	Rhode Island Small Business Journal: Volume 3, Issue 6	6/30/14	Link
Rhode Island Steps In To Recover Abandoned Life Insurance Property	Rhode Island Small Business Journal: Volume 3, Issue 4	4/27/14	Link
Securing Retirement For RI Public Servants	Rhode Island Small Business Journal: Volume 3, Issue 3	3/17/14	Link
Reflecting on the Accomplishments of 2013	Rhode Island Small Business Journal: Volume 3, Issue 1	1/26/2014	Link
New Alternative Payday Lending Site Will Help Rhode Islanders	Rhode Island Small Business Journal: Volume 2, Issue 10	12/23/2013	Link
Fixing Our Fundamentals Benefits Us All	Rhode Island Small Business Journal: Volume 2, Issue 9	12/10/2013	Link
Raimondo Promotes EITC: You've Earned It, Now Get It	The Federal Hill Gazette	2/26/14	Link
Rebuilding Our Roads and Bridges	Rhode Island Small Business Journal: Volume 2, Issue 5	6/25/13	
Protect R.I. from these abusive lenders	Providence Journal	5/29/12	
Longer runway leads to R.I. prosperity	Providence Journal	2/14/12	
Next Up: Reforming Local Pension Plans	Providence Journal	12/21/11	
R.I. leaders move toward pension reform	Providence Journal	9/18/11	
Truth in the Numbers: The Security and Sustainability of Rhode Island's Retirement System	Office of the General Treasurer	June 2011	Link

Speeches

During my tenure as Governor and General Treasurer, I have delivered remarks, both formally and informally, in countless forums on job creation, economic growth, and other topics related to the work of the Secretary of Commerce. To the best of my ability, I have sought to provide a comprehensive list of speeches and addresses which I have been able to identify from my records and electronic searches. If additional speeches are identified, they will be provided to the committee promptly.

Venue/Title	Date
Operation Hope Annual Meeting	10/22/20
Politico State Solutions Conference	2/7/20
East Bay Chamber of Commerce	1/31/20
2020 Rhode Island State of the State Address	1/14/20
Rhode Island Offshore Wind Summit	7/18/19
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce	4/18/19
2019 Rhode Island Promise Scholarship Expansion Testimony	4/10/19
Harvard Kennedy School	3/13/19
2019 Rhode Island State of the State Address	1/15/19
2019 Gubernatorial Inauguration Address	1/1/19
Block Island Wind Farm Announcement	5/30/18

Venue/Title	Date
Northern Rhode Island Chamber Eggs and Issues Breakfast	4/23/18
2018 North American Building Trades Union Speech	4/18/18
SIEPR Economic Summit	3/19/18
Jobs For Rhode Island Summit	2/21/18
Goldman Sachs Small Business Summit	2/13/18
2018 Rhode Island State of the State Address	1/16/18
Information Governance Conference	11/16/17
Sheldon Whitehouse 8th Annual Energy, Environmental and Oceans Leaders Day	10/20/17
New York Times' 2017 Higher Education Leaders Forum	5/30/17
University of Rhode Island Commencement	5/13/17
Northern Rhode Island Chamber Eggs and Issues Breakfast	4/3/17
2017 Rhode Island Promise Scholarship Testimony	3/15/17
2017 Rhode Island State of the State Address	1/17/17
RI Small Business Economic Summit	1/8/17
2016 Rhode Island Budget Address/State of the State Address	2/2/16
Most Powerful Women Summit	10/14/15
The Inauguration of Rosanne Somerson	10/9/15
IYRS School of Technology & Trades Commencement	5/30/15
Community College of Rhode Island Commencement	5/20/15
2015 Rhode Island Budget Address	3/12/15
2015 Gubernatorial Inauguration Address	1/6/15
Transition Policy Summit	12/16/14
RI Gubernatorial Forum to Discuss Climate Change	8/25/14
Financial Empowerment Initiative	1/10/13
Smaller Business Association of New England	10/13/11

18. List digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the name of an “alias” or “handle” you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

My office or my campaigns have operated the following social media accounts, which remain active:

Twitter: @GovRaimondo, @GinaMRaimondo

Facebook: @GinaMRaimondo, @gina.raimondo

Instagram: @GovRaimondo, @ginaraimondo

I also have a LinkedIn account, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ginaraimondo/>.

19. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

I have never testified before Congress.

20. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

The mission of the Commerce Department is to help spur good-paying jobs; to empower entrepreneurs to innovate and grow; to come together with working families and American businesses; to create new opportunities for all of us. These same goals have been my priorities as Governor of Rhode Island. When I announced my run for Governor, Rhode Island was in the midst of an eight-month streak as the state with the highest unemployment rate in the Nation. But over the last six years, we grew our way back, achieving a record number of jobs and the lowest unemployment in 30 years.

We did it by bringing together our workers and our businesses in common cause.

We invested in our people—in their skills, their opportunities, and their dreams. The Real Jobs Rhode Island initiative has served more than 1,700 employers and 11,000 Rhode Islanders through job training programs designed to meet employer needs and then doing whatever it takes—be it building programs or clearing barriers—to teach those skills to potential employees.

We helped new businesses launch and sparked others to hire and grow responsibly. We have provided businesses with access to capital to help them expand and innovate. I am particularly proud of our work with small businesses. One of our small business loan programs has empowered 150 Rhode Island entrepreneurs so

far—more than half of whom are women or people of color—to get new businesses up and running.

We have pursued an aggressive renewable energy agenda. During my time as Governor, Rhode Island became the first state in the Nation to put “steel in the water” by establishing America’s first offshore wind facility. This has been part of my focus on expanding clean energy jobs and putting Rhode Island on a path to achieving 100 percent renewable energy.

The United States is facing a daunting economic challenge, but it is one that America’s workers and entrepreneurs can overcome. I share the President-elect and Vice President-elect’s vision for an inclusive recovery that lifts up those who have been left behind, for a national effort that provides skills, training, and wraparound supports to get Americans back to work, and for rebuilding American manufacturing and bringing back jobs that have gone overseas. It’s why I’m so excited to get to work on a national scale to help realize that vision and Build Back Better.

21. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

If confirmed as Secretary of Commerce, I will be accountable for the operations of the department. Everyone who works in public service must do the people’s work effectively, efficiently, and with integrity. I will set that tone from the top. I will empower personnel in the department to lead with integrity and ensure that things are done properly, and I will hold them accountable if they do not meet those standards.

22. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

First, we need to respond to the economic damage caused by the pandemic. The Department of Commerce needs to invest in our people and our small businesses, so that we emerge from this crisis with a stronger and more resilient economy.

Second, we need to address the structural inequity in our economy. The harms of the pandemic have hit low income and minority communities the hardest. The Department, in particular through the work of the Minority Business Development Agency, must be integral to this effort. We need to invest in these communities by ensuring that everyone has accessible pathways to good jobs, by providing small businesses with the resources they need to recover and thrive, and by strengthening community, financial, and other institutions so these communities have continued access to capital, technical assistance, and other resources that sustain prosperity.

Third, we need to ensure that American workers and manufacturers can compete fairly on the global playing field. We need to invest in innovation and technology in our manufacturing sector, leveraging the capacity at National Institute of Standards and Technology to ensure our industries succeed. The International Trade Administration needs to take aggressive trade enforcement actions to combat unfair trade practices that undercut American manufacturing, and be equally aggressive in promoting American goods abroad.

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts.

I have a 457b Retirement Account from the State of Rhode Island as a result of my service as Governor and General Treasurer. I also have a TIAA-CREF Retirement Account and a Retirement Defined Benefits plan from the State of Rhode Island that accrues with each year of state service.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain. No.

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Designated Agency Ethics Official at the Department of Commerce to identify any potential conflict of interest. Any conflict of interest will be resolved according to the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Commerce Department’s Designated Agency Ethics Official and that will be provided to this Committee. In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with the Commerce Department’s ethics counsel and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

I have spent the last ten years in public office in Rhode Island, first as General Treasurer and currently as Governor. I have not had any business relationships, dealings, or financial transactions during that time that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest, so far as I am aware.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest that may arise beyond what I have explained above.

In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with the Commerce Department's ethics counsel and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

For the last ten years, I have held elected office in Rhode Island, first as General Treasurer and then as Governor. During that time period, my efforts to influence legislation, the administration or execution of the laws, or public policy have been as part of my duties as an elected official or in my capacity as a candidate for public office.

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If yes:

- Provide the name of agency, association, committee, or group;
- Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;
- Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;
- Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

I have never been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation.

There have been five campaign finance or ethics complaints filed against me or my campaigns, and one advisory opinion request that purported to complain about my campaign. All have been rejected without any adverse findings or adverse actions. They are as follows:

Agency Date Description Result	Rhode Island Board of Elections Complaint filed on Sept. 30, 2014 by Republican Party Complaint alleged that Democratic Party's ad supporting U.S. Senate candidate and my gubernatorial campaign violated state campaign finance law. Board of Elections dismissed the complaint.
Agency Date Description Result	Rhode Island Ethics Commission Complaint filed Feb. 12, 2018 by Republican Party Complaint alleged that mutual support agreement between gubernatorial campaign and Providence Democratic City Committee violated state ethics law because the chair of the city committee was a state employee Ethics Commission dismissed the complaint
Agency Date Description Result	Federal Election Commission Complaint filed Mar. 3, 2018 by Republican Party Complaint alleged that mutual support agreement between gubernatorial campaign and Providence Democratic City Committee violated Federal Election Commission regulation governing joint fundraising activity FEC dismissed the complaint after finding no reason to believe that a violation occurred
Agency	Rhode Island Board of Elections

Date	Advisory opinion request filed Mar. 12, 2018 by Republican Party
Description	Request asked whether mutual support agreement between gubernatorial campaign and Providence Democratic City Committee violated state campaign finance law
Result	Board of Elections declined the request upon determining the advisory opinion request did not comply with the law
Agency	Rhode Island Board of Elections
Date	Complaint filed Jul. 9, 2018 by Republican Party
Description	Complaint alleged that campaign failed to pay fair market value in rent for its office space
Result	The complaint was dismissed
Agency	Rhode Island Ethics Commission
Date	Complaint filed Jul. 24, 2019 by Republican Party
Description	Complaint alleged that participating in negotiations to extend existing state lottery contract and signing legislation authorizing online sports gambling violated ethics law because former chairman of lottery company was Treasurer of the Democratic Governors Association, which I chaired at the time
Result	Ethics Commission dismissed the complaint

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No.

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain.

I have been a party to multiple civil litigations in my capacity as Governor and as General Treasurer of Rhode Island. I am a party to those cases by virtue of the office hold. Often I am named as a defendant in cases involving alleged matters which did not involve me. I have asked counsel to prepare a list of all the cases in which I have been named as a party, to the best of their ability, which I am providing in Appendix B. Among the more notable cases include present litigation on the constitutionality of the state's truck tolling program and concluded litigation on the state's pension reform, public access to grand jury records, and the separation of powers. I have never been a party to a lawsuit outside of lawsuits resulting from my service as Governor or General Treasurer.

In addition, as Governor, I am by law the Chair of the Board of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, a quasi-public corporation that serves as the state's economic development agency. The Rhode Island Commerce corporation was a plaintiff in civil litigation alleging fraud against various private parties concerning a failed economic development transaction that occurred before my time as Governor.

The Securities and Exchange Commission brought litigation against the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation and others in connection with the same transaction. During my tenure as Governor, the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation settled the civil litigation and the litigation by the SEC.

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No.

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain. No.

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination. None.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority? Yes.

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistle blowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures? Yes.

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee? Yes.

4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so? Yes.

APPENDIX A

GINA RAIMONDO

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

GOVERNOR, STATE OF RHODE ISLAND Providence, RI

2015-present

GENERAL TREASURER, STATE OF RHODE ISLAND Providence, RI

2011–2015

POINT JUDITH CAPITAL, LLC Providence, RI

Founder, Managing Partner, 2002–2010

Founder and General Partner of \$100MM venture capital firm investing in early-stage IT and health care companies

- Served as lead partner on fundraising, LP relations, recruiting, and strategic development
- Led the firm's healthcare investing, with focus on medical device and healthcare IT companies; responsible for deal sourcing and structuring, due diligence, and post-investment oversight and support with business development and strategies, and recruiting for portfolio

VILLAGE VENTURES, INC. New York, NY

Senior Vice President Fund Development/Founding Team, 1999–2002

Member of senior management team that established and supported a network of regionally-focused venture capital funds located in emerging geographies across the U.S.

- Served as key member of team that raised \$70MM+ in Series A and B financings from private equity firms (Bain Capital, Highland Capital, Sandler Capital); drafted PPMs, attended pitch meetings, attended VV board meetings
- Managed team of six professionals to establish national network of 12 venture capital funds, including identification of optimal geographies for new funds, recruitment of local management teams for each fund, and raising of over \$300MM in LP capital across the fund network from both institutional and individual LPs based in those geographies
- Member of deal teams on several investments; led successful M&A negotiations on company's behalf
- Speaker at numerous venture capital industry forums and events

HONORABLE KIMBA WOOD, U.S. DISTRICT COURT, S.D.N.Y. New York, NY

Law Clerk, 1998–1999

Advised Federal trial judge on drafting opinions, preparing for conferences and managing caseload

EDUCATION

YALE LAW SCHOOL New Haven, CT

Juris Doctor, 1998

Olin Fellow. CT Bar Association Public Service Scholarship. Research Assistant for corporate law professor Roberta Romano. Teaching Assistant for Professor Harold Koh. Student Supervisor, Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Clinic

OXFORD UNIVERSITY, NEW COLLEGE Oxford, England

D.Phil in Sociology, 2003; M.Litt in Economics, 1996

Rhodes Scholar. Doctoral thesis entitled: "Determinants of Single Motherhood in the United States." President, New College graduate student body. Captain, New College Rugby Club

HARVARD UNIVERSITY Cambridge, MA

Bachelor of Arts in Economics, 1993

Magna Cum Laude. Phi Beta Kappa (junior year). Allyn Young Award for outstanding thesis in the Economics Department. Operations Manager, *The Harvard Crimson*. Research Assistant, National Bureau of Economic Research. Radcliffe Rugby Club

APPENDIX B

List of Litigation

Prepared by counsel

Case	Case No.	Court
Clervrain v. Raimondo	1:2020cv0 0535	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
American Trucking Associations, Inc., et al v. Alviti, Jr., et al	20–2120	U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
In Re: Raimondo, et al	20–2168	U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
Armstrong v. Raimondo et al	1:2020cv0 0509	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
A.C., et al v. Raimondo, et al	20–2082	U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
Card v. Raimondo	1:2020cv0 0439	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Alvizures v. Raimondo	1:2020cv0 0336	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Letourneau et al v. State of Rhode Island et al	1:2020cv0 0269	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Efreom et al v. Raimondo et al	1:2020cv0 0122	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
El v. Del Vecchio et al	1:2020cv0 0119	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Elle Sanon Auguste El v. DelVecchio et al	1:2020cv0 0055	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Gonzalez v. Raimondo et al	1:2019cv0 0402	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Romano v. Wall et al	1:2019cv0 0370	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Lombardi et al v. Raimondo	1:2019cv0 0364	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Smith v. Neronha, et al	19–1470	U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
Shahwali v. Hughes et al	1:2019cv0 0186	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Liviz v. Baker, et al	19–1224	U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
Liviz Sr. v. Baker et al	1:2019cv1 0304	U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts
Nickerson v. Providence Plantation et al	1:2019cv0 0030	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Smith v. Neronha et al	1:2019cv0 0029	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
A.C. et al v. Raimondo et al	1:2018cv0 0645	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Rhode Island Homeless Advocacy Project et al v. Raimondo	1:2017cv0 0602	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Jefferson v. Raimondo et al	1:2017cv0 0439	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Silvia v. Raimondo	1:2017cv0 0310	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Cranston Firefighters, IAFF, et al v. Raimondo, et al	17–1293	U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
Parkhurst v. Raimondo et al	1:2017cv0 0092	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Winslowet-Alps v. Mathes, et al	16–1951	U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
Winslowet-Alps v. Mathes, et al	16–1838	U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
Winslowet-Alps v. Arondrewli et al	1:2016cv0 0256	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Cranston Firefighters, IAFF Local 1363, AFL–CIO et al v. Raimondo et al	1:2016cv0 0130	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Hicks v. State of Rhode Island et al	1:2015cv0 0011	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Kufner et al v. Suttell et al	1:2013cv1 2864	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Bergemann, et al v. Rhode Island Department of Env, et al	11–1484	U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
Bergemann, et al v. Rhode Island Department of Env, et al	11–1407	U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

List of Litigation—Continued

Prepared by counsel

Case	Case No.	Court
Walker v. Raimondo	1:15-cv-00 087	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
M. et al v. Chafee et al.	1:07-cv-00 241	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
Monsanto v. State of Rhode Island et al.	1:16-cv-00 147	U.S. Dist. Ct. for District of Rhode Island
<i>Rhode Island State Court Cases</i>		
ANDREA CABAN VS GINA RAIMONDO IN HER CAPACITY	6CA-2011 -03410	6th Division District Court
ANNE ARMSTRONG, ALAN GORDON, DAUGHTERS OF EVE v. NICHOLAS MATTIELLO, DOMINICK RUGGERIO, GINA RAIMONDO	KC-2019-0071	Kent County Superior Court
ROBERT BAINTE V STATE OF RI	PC-2011-3 197	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
NICOLE FOX V GINA RAIMONDO	PC-2011-2 633	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
LINDA PHILLIPS V RETIREMENT BOARD	PC-2012-2 875	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
RI PUBLIC EMPLOYEES V LINCOLN CHAFEE	PC-2012-3 166	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
BRISTOL WARREN V LINCOLN CHAFEE	PC-2012-3 167	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
RI COUNCIL 94 V LINCOLN CHAFEE ET AL	PC-2012-3 168	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
CRANSTON POLICE V LINCOLN CHAFEE	PC-2012-3 169	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
WOONSOCKET FIRE FIGHTERS V LINCOLN CHAFEE	PC-2012-3 579	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
ANDREA HUNT DENBY V SHARON VIENS	PC-2012-4 395	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
ROSA ARCE V CITY OF PROVIDENCE	PC-2012-4 610	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
JOHN GRASSO v. GINA RAIMONDO, FRANK KARPINSKI, BOARD OFEMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF RI, State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations	PC-2013-3 121	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
CYNTHIA TZOC V CITY OF PROVIDENCE	PC-2014-4 276	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
CRANSTON FIREFIGHTERS V LINCOLN CHAFEE	PC-2014-4 343	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
ANNETTE DIAZ V FLORA CURTIS	PC-2014-4 522	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
RONALD RENAUD v. GINA RAIMONDO, Michael DiBiase, State of Rhode Island	PC-2016-0 910	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
GOLOCALPROV, LLC v. Rhode Island Department of Public Safety, Kevin Barry, Gina Raimondo	PC-2016-4 810	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
JASON GREENBERG v. RHODE ISLAND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, CHRISTOPHER CALLAHAN, GINA RAIMONDO	PC-2017-4 703	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
Bryan Menge v. The State of Rhode Island, Gina Raimondo, Paul Suttell, Peter Kilmartin, William Guglietta, Alan Goulart, Ann Assumpico, Walter Craddock, Michael Kane, Mr. Drozdov, Mr. Cloud, Mr. Bautista, Mr. Robles	PC-2018-1 211	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
Save The Bay, Inc. v. Gina Raimondo	PC-2018-2 684	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
In re, 38 Studios Grand Jury	SU-2017-0 301-A	Rhode Island Supreme Court
In re, 38 Studios Grand Jury	PM-2017-0701	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court

List of Litigation—Continued

Prepared by counsel

Case	Case No.	Court
RI PUBLIC EMPLOYEES V LINCOLN CHAFEE	SU-12-033 1	Rhode Island Supreme Court
WOONSOCKET FIRE FIGHTERS V LINCOLN CHAFEE	SU-12-033 2	Rhode Island Supreme Court
RI COUNCIL 94 V LINCOLN CHAFEE	SU-12-033 3	Rhode Island Supreme Court
CRANSTON POLICE V LINCOLN CHAFEE	SU-12-033 4	Rhode Island Supreme Court
BRISTOL WARREN V LINCOLN CHAFEE	SU-12-033 5	Rhode Island Supreme Court
RI PUBLIC EMPLOYEES V GINA RAIMONDO	SU-15-006 0	Rhode Island Supreme Court
CRANSTON POLICE V GINA RAIMONDO	SU-15-006 2	Rhode Island Supreme Court
BRISTOL WARREN V GINA RAIMONDO	SU-15-006 3	Rhode Island Supreme Court
RI COUNCIL 94 V GINA RAIMONDO	SU-15-006 4	Rhode Island Supreme Court
RI COUNCIL 94 V GINA RAIMONDO	SU-15-006 5	Rhode Island Supreme Court
WOONSOCKET FIRE FIGHTERS V GINA RAIMONDO	SU-15-006 6	Rhode Island Supreme Court
JOSEPH CLIFFORD V GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND	SU-15-006 9	Rhode Island Supreme Court
IBOP V GINA RAIMONDO	SU-15-007 0	Rhode Island Supreme Court
CRANSTON FIREFIGHTERS V GINA RAIMONDO	SU-15-007 1	Rhode Island Supreme Court
JOHN GRASSO V. GINA RAIMONDO	SU-16-008 3	Rhode Island Supreme Court
JONATHAN CORRENTE V. CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION PR	SU-16-024 7	Rhode Island Supreme Court
In Re: Jonathan S. Berkon	SU-2019-0 305-MP	Rhode Island Supreme Court
Steven Palange v. Margarita Palange et al.	SU-2020-0 069-A	Rhode Island Supreme Court
Steven Palange v. Margarita Palange et al.	WC-2019-0555	Washington County Superior Court
RI PUBLIC EMPLOYEES V GINA RAIMONDO	SU-15-006 0	Rhode Island Supreme Court
JOSE LANZA V CITY OF PROVIDENCE	PC-2011-4 487	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
TOWN OF SCITUATE V EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM RI	PC-2011-6 345	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
DOLORES NUGENT V STATE OF RI	PC-2014-3 247	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
THOMAS WHEWELL V CORRIE REALTY LLC	WC-2009-0841	Washington County Superior Court
JAMES MEGA V COLLEEN HIGGINS	PC-2014-3 640	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
RI STATE TROOPERS V STATE OF RI	PC-2014-4 432	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
NORBERTO GOMEZ C ALL FRESH DONUTS	PC-2014-4 500	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
CITY OF CRANSTON v. STATE OF RHODE ISLAND et al.	PC-2020-0 7650	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
MICHAEL BRADY V GINA RAIMONDO	PC-2013-5 592	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
DEBORAH GATTO V PROVIDENCE	PC-2012-6 025	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
JONATHAN CORRENTE V CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION PRO.	PC-2013-4 763	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
LAURIE SMITH V FAMILY SERVICES OF RI	PC-2013-5 152	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
Gina Raimondo, Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation v. Nicholas Mattiello, Dominick Ruggerio	PC-2019-1 0341	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court
Town of Barrington et al., v. State of Rhode Island et al.	PC-2019-1 0870	Providence/Bristol County Superior Court

List of Litigation—Continued

Prepared by counsel

Case	Case No.	Court
CHARIHO REGIONAL SCHOOL V. DEBORAH GIST Rhode Island Troopers Association et al., v. State of Rhode Island, Division of the State Police et al.	SU-11-008 5 PC-2019-1 1054	Rhode Island Supreme Court Providence/Bristol County Superior Court

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very, very much, Governor, and we will now proceed to questions under the 5-minute rule. I am required to ask you this question. The Committee has a history of the Chair asking nominees to state on the record that they pledge to work with Congress and the Committee in a cooperative manner. So, I ask you, if confirmed, will you pledge to work collaboratively with this committee and provide thorough and timely responses to our requests for information as we work together to address important policy issues? Will you?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, absolutely.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, ma'am. Let's move on then to some specific issues. And I wonder if you have had a chance to look at the status of the United States and European Union negotiations to establish a successor data transfer framework that overcomes the issues that led to the invalidation of the Privacy Shield last summer. We held a hearing on this in the last Congress on the invalidation of this EU, U.S. Privacy Shield framework. If confirmed, how do you plan to work with your counterparts in Europe on this issue and other issues to ensure that we have a data transfer framework that is workable? And how will you continue transatlantic data transfers in compliance with what we have now? Have you had a chance to look into this, Governor?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you say, cross-border data transfers are vital to the interests of many American companies, and the Privacy Shield was particularly important for thousands of small and medium sized businesses. As I understand it, the negotiations are going well. And should I be confirmed, it would be a top priority of mine to finish the negotiations swiftly and ensure that there is a successor agreement that protects the interests of American businesses and provides for that transfer of data.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, thank you very much. And I just wanted to highlight the importance of that by asking that as my first substantive question. Let's move to seafood, trade, restaurants and competitiveness. Americans eat approximately 70 percent of their seafood in restaurants and other food service establishments. Restaurant closures during the COVID-19 crisis caused the demand for seafood to evaporate almost overnight.

As a result, fisheries across the Nation have reported up to a 90 percent drop in sales in 2020. My Restaurants Act, which is a bipartisan Act, would have temporarily established and provided funding for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund. Since Americans eat 70 percent of their seafood in restaurants, this bill would also help see the seafood industry recover. And at this point, I offer into the record at this point an Op-ed in today's *Wall Street Journal*,

“Closing Time for Bars and Restaurants” by Robert St. John, a prominent restaurateur in the state of Mississippi. And without objection, it will be added into the record at this point.
[The information referred to follows:]

Wall Street Journal

OPINION | COMMENTARY

CLOSING TIME FOR BARS AND RESTAURANTS

Few industries have been harder hit by Covid. We need relief.

By Robert St. John—Jan. 25, 2021 5:41 pm ET



Maria's Italian Kitchen in Santa Monica, Calif., prepares to close due to Covid-19 restrictions, July 28, 2020.

PHOTO: VALERIE MACON/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES
Hattiesburg, Miss.

From the first moment of my first shift on my first day in a restaurant, I knew I wanted to own my own place. That was 40 years ago and I've loved every challenge the restaurant business has thrown my way—until now. I fear the work of four decades won't survive the coming months without a plan that truly addresses my industry's needs.

In April I sat down with my wife, 22-year-old daughter and 18-year-old son and told them we may lose some, or all, of the six restaurants and two bars we owned. In the same conversation, I told them there was also a strong chance we might have to sell our home.

Nearly a year into the pandemic, I have permanently closed two restaurants and a bar—leaving 52 people to have difficult conversations with their own families. For the first time in my career, I have to ask for help.

The pandemic is unfair. A tiny airborne particle threatens everything I've spent 40 years working to build. My teams have done nothing wrong. We work hard, we're honest, we roll with the punches, and we always do our best to serve our customers and community.

This isn't the first time restaurant owners have dealt with adversity. The financial crisis of 2008 came and went, our sales tanked, and no one heard a word from restaurants. After hurricanes, tornadoes and wildfires we have rolled up our sleeves and done the work it takes to reopen.

But this is different. We are out of options, and I fear a few more weeks of limited revenue may jeopardize my remaining businesses. Thousands of American inde-

pendent restaurants face similar issues. The end is coming in more of a whimper than a bang—restaurants are being starved into extinction.

Early in the pandemic I joined other independent restaurateurs across the country and organized the Independent Restaurant Coalition to ensure our community had a voice in the public debate around Federal relief. Politics is a game that is entirely new to me and most members of the IRC, but that turned out to be an asset. We applied the same entrepreneurial attitudes we bring to our kitchens to advocate for our cause in Washington. We didn't take no for an answer, no problem was too big or too small to solve, and no opportunity was left to waste.

The drinks and food-service industry has suffered about 1 in 4 Covid-related job losses. According to a National Restaurant Association survey, more than 1 in 6 restaurants closed permanently during the first six months of the shutdown.

I was encouraged to see President Biden highlight our industry's unique pain in his speech outlining a new Covid relief plan. He acknowledged the devastation felt by the entire restaurant world. It's a good start, but now we need Congress to do something about it and pass direct relief in the next round of stimulus.

In the 116th Congress, I worked closely with Mississippi Sen. Roger Wicker to push the Restaurants Act. That \$120 billion grant program is what our community needs to survive this pandemic, and nothing less will cut it for America's 500,000 independent restaurants and bars, the 11 million workers we employ, and the five million ancillary jobs, such as farmers and fishermen, associated with our industry.

Time is nearly up for my business and many others. Restaurants operate under a unique business model that is tight on cash and short on profit. Ten weeks of diminished revenue can spell trouble for a restaurant's business health. Independent restaurants across the country have been struggling for more than 10 months on financial fumes.

The solutions offered by Congress so far have amounted to a Band-Aid on a bullet hole. Our first round of Paycheck Protection Program funds are gone, and the second round will keep us afloat for only a few weeks. Restrictions limit indoor dining, and winter weather has brought an end to outdoor dining for much of the country. Thousands more businesses will soon have no choice but to shut their doors forever.

It's time for Congress to make restaurants a priority and pass direct aid. It's the only thing that will save our restaurants and workers.

Mr. St. John is a chef and owner of the New South Restaurant Group.

Appeared in the January 26, 2021, print edition.

The CHAIRMAN. So, let me ask you, Governor, since 70 percent of Americans eat their seafood in restaurants, from the perspective of your region, what do you expect to be the lasting impacts of this terrible crisis on the seafood industry? And what will it take for the seafood and the restaurant industry to recover?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you for that question. And I know from our previous discussions, this is a very important topic for you as it is for me. As Senator Whitehouse said, I am the Governor of the ocean state. Thousands of Rhode Islanders make their living as commercial fishermen, and both they and restaurants have been really devastated during this pandemic.

If confirmed as Commerce Secretary, I would look forward to working very closely with you and your colleagues to come up with bold and creative solutions, not only to help our fishermen, but also our restaurants and for that matter, the entire hospitality industry, because I assess the impacts to be quite long standing unless we take bold action.

The CHAIRMAN. These are two terribly threatened industries that are vital to our economy. Thank you, Governor Raimondo. Senator Cantwell, for your questions.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Governor, again, congratulations on your nomination. And I think you are aware of how broad the Department is in its oversight of science issues. The Chairman asked you a pretty broad question at the beginning, which was important, to do with collaboration. Surprising how

often that doesn't happen sometimes. So, it is very good to clarify, but also want to clarify this issue as it relates to science and data. Do you oppose any censorship of scientific data and information coming out of the Department of Commerce?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, I do.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you. And will you work with us to help restore the confidence in that science and data, information, and investment in it for the future?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, I will.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you. A couple of specific issues, one that I mentioned in my opening statement and as we are talking about seafood and the fishing economy. Salmon is particularly important to the Pacific Northwest, and one of the issues regarding salmon, involves broader infrastructure investment moving forward, that is all sorts of transportation infrastructure. We are a coastal state with a lot of transportation infrastructure and moving products. But keeping salmon habitat and restoration in a robust state is very critical to keeping salmon. So, will you work with us on a more targeted, larger scale investment in stormwater restoration and in building critical habitat for everything from oyster reefs to eel and seagrass and critical habitat? There is a dozen or so members of this committee that probably have similar problems in their states, but would you work with us to increase the amount of investment and targeted return from that investment?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, I would very much look forward to working with you and other members of the Committee. Again, as I said, I have come to understand from my discussions with you these past couple of weeks how important the salmon stock is and the fishing industry in general is to your state. And I would absolutely look forward to working with you on that issue.

Senator CANTWELL. Well, I guess I would call it salmon infrastructure, and that is that as we grow transportation infrastructure, which we also desperately need in the Pacific Northwest, we grow salmon infrastructure, which is that habitat and stormwater restoration, which practically every community in my state would tell you that they need if they are ever going to do a better job of protecting salmon. The same kind of scientific and data information is also needed for our orca whale population and preserving them. One of the things that they have issue with right now, which NOAA has basically said we need to do something about is noise as it relates to the orca population, so I hope that you will work with us to implement a process for our shipping and Coast Guard and others to work on a mitigation plan for the orca whale population.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, I would be excited to do that. I will say here as Governor I have a record of investing in stormwater, investing in resiliency, investing in adaptation, and would certainly look forward to doing that with you and members of the Committee.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you. And then last, stock assessments. We believe in good fisheries management policy and key to that is stock assessments. And so I hope you will work with us on increasing the amount of dollars that go into the science behind stock assessment so we can make good management plans.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, again, absolutely. I plan to lead with science and lead with data. I know stock assessments are vital and also very detailed, and I absolutely look forward to working with you on that.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you. And on the larger issue of science and data, as I mentioned in my opening statement, as it relates to weather, do you think the United States should be a world leader in weather and data forecasting information? I say I am not necessarily trying to be competitive with another nation, it is just the amount of times that we hear our news broadcasters say, well, this is the forecast and then this is the European forecast. And they are using supercomputing time to get more out of this. This weather data is so critical for us as it relates to, as I said, aviation, maritime, space issues, agriculture issues. So will you work with us to make sure the United States has the state-of-the-art technology when it comes to weather forecasting and weather information?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, I think, and we had the opportunity to visit about this last week, I applaud your leadership on, I think that America's national weather service should be the gold standard. And should I be confirmed, I will work with you to make sure that that is the case.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you. I see my time has expired, Mr. Chairman. I would just say that I am going to count on the Governor to work with us. Her workforce strategy in Rhode Island jobs, I think, is that particularly for underserved communities and minority business community, is something we need to look at and how we can elevate that to a national level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Cantwell. Senator Thune.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN THUNE,
U.S. SENATOR FROM SOUTH DAKOTA**

Senator THUNE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Governor Raimondo, congratulations on your nomination. And let me just start by saying that as I am sure you are aware, in December Congress allocated funds to NTIA to oversee a broadband grant program to connect underserved areas. It is vitally important that we close the digital divide in states like South Dakota and across America. However, the effectiveness of NTIA administering such a program is concerning given its history awarding broadband grants provided by the 2009 stimulus.

Under the Obama, Biden Administration, GAO concluded that NTIA had faced a number of challenges, from staffing to adequate data on broadband availability, resulting in a largely ineffective program at the taxpayer's expense. What steps would you take to correct the mistakes of the past? And will you commit to me that NTIA will set up this program in a way that this new money only goes to areas that are completely unserved?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you, Senator, for that question. First, let me say that as Governor of a state and having lived through COVID, I have seen the truly devastating effects of that lack of broadband can have on people. It is not a luxury, it is a necessity. It is how children can have their classes. It is how people can do

telehealth and visit a doctor. It's how you can sign up to get a vaccine. So you can have my strong commitment to work closely with you and other members of this committee to make sure that NTIA has strong leadership that and that we execute on those grants as expeditiously as possible, and with an eye toward making sure that everyone, tribal lands, rural folks who live in a mountain range, has access to broadband, which is absolutely necessary.

I will also say, you know this is an area where I hope we can have bipartisan agreement. I have heard from my Republican Governor colleagues and Democratic Governor colleagues all over the country saying we need help on this. And so should I have the honor of serving as Commerce Secretary, I commit this will be a very top priority the minute I get into the job.

Senator THUNE. Thank you. Congress established a clear division of responsibility for spectrum management. The FCC is responsible for commercial spectrum. NTIA is responsible for Federal Government spectrum. And there have been a number of instances in the past when the FCC and NTIA's roles have come into conflict. How can we ensure that the FCC and NTIA work in partnership to address spectrum management issues that impact both Federal and commercial entities? And do you support freeing up additional spectrum held by the Federal Government to support the needs of next generation wireless services?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you for this question, and it is a topic that I have had the opportunity to talk to a number of members of the Committee on. Again, it gets back to having a strong NTIA with strong leadership, particularly as it relates to 5G. You know, the race is on for 5G and I want America to win and lead, and that requires spectrum. So, yes, I do support finding additional publicly-owned spectrum, and I will—I think what we need to do, and the President has been clear, is we need to step back and have a national strategy on spectrum and look to make spectrum available from public and commercial uses so that we can move forward on broadband and 5G. And I commit to working with you on that and having leadership in the NTIA to do that.

Senator THUNE. Thank you. The livelihoods of farmers and ranchers in my state often depend on forecasting accuracy. So it is important that we find innovative ways to improve NOAA's capabilities when it comes to predicting weather. In the last Congress, Senator Schatz and I introduced a bill called the Learning Excellence and Good Examples from New Developers or LEGEND Act, got to have an acronym around here, which makes NOAA's current future operational forecast models more accessible to outside experts, including scientists and engineers in academia who can provide new insights to improve existing forecasting models. Do you believe it is important for NOAA to incorporate innovative approaches to weather forecasting from outside stakeholders?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, I do. As I said to Senator Cantwell, the National Weather Service should be the gold standard. And by the way, I have a strong track record of embracing innovation and technology throughout my public and private sector career. So, yes, I think we ought to be forward leaning and embrace science and technology and innovation, so we have the best there is to offer.

Senator THUNE. And would you commit to working with us to move that Act through Congress, that legislation?

Ms. RAIMONDO. I will commit to working with you. Absolutely.

Senator THUNE. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Thune. Governor let me just interject that Senator Thune has raised a very good point with regard to NTIA and FCC. And it is going to be important that we have a Secretary that is committed to following the statute on the bifurcated system of managing spectrum with the NTIA representing the spectrum needs of Federal agencies. Senator Klobuchar.

**STATEMENT OF HON. AMY KLOBUCHAR,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MINNESOTA**

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Governor. Thank you for being here. And I have to say that those two introductions by your Senators, we hear a lot of introductions, but they were incredibly heartfelt and a tribute to you. And I would also add that my own Governor, Tim Walz, is a big fan of yours, and that goes a long way. So your experience with economic development, your private sector and public sector experience I think is going to be an amazing combination for this job. So thank you very much for being willing to serve.

I had a question, you and I talked about this when we met, on travel and tourism, and I noted that Senator Blunt and I, along with several other Senators, including Schatz, Cortez Masto, have worked on tourism, and the Brand USA bill, where Senator Blunt and I have led for years now, is a public, private partnership that promotes international tourism throughout the U.S., supporting more than 51,000 jobs a year, and I just like your commitment that you will support that and do all that you can to continue to support the tourism industry?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, thank you, Senator, and thank you for your time yesterday. I thank you for your leadership on tourism. I know you have been a leader on this issue for a long time. I hail from a state where tourism is a significant part of our economy. And I have seen firsthand over these past 10 months just how crippling the COVID pandemic has been to the businesses of—tourism-dependent businesses. So, yes, I look forward to working with you and your colleagues, really leaning into Brand USA and being as bold and creative as we can to encourage people to come to our country, to apply, to stay in hotels. Obviously, I think President Biden's leadership around COVID is vital, and once folks are vaccinated and feel more comfortable, absolutely. We will work together on this issue. It is a lot of American jobs.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you. And one thing we didn't talk about as much, and I wish I had and I can talk to you about it later, given your experience with venture capital investment and the like, I think you could be such a big advocate for this, is a bill that I have called the New Business Preservation Act, focuses, we worked with Steve Case and other people on this, focuses on incubating and developing Silicon Valley type areas all over the country, that it shouldn't just be one area that gets all this investment,

as good as that is, and that we need to spread it around and create other hubs of investment.

And what the bill does is it authorizes states to make equity investments in new businesses alongside venture capital companies. They wouldn't actually be making the decisions or funding it directly. But I hope you will be willing to look at that and look at that as well as skills investment. I think your experience in Rhode Island and the work you have done with getting more people jobs would be really helpful. I think it was Tyler Perry who once said "your beginning shouldn't dictate your destiny." And certainly after this pandemic and through this pandemic, we are going to have a lot of work that must be done. I know Senator Cantwell has been such a leader on this, on skills reinvestment, as well as looking at our economy more globally about where we can invest in areas of the country to encourage more hubs of innovation.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you, Senator. Yes, of course, I will look forward to working with you and all of your colleagues. I would say I am deeply committed to making sure that all Americans, in every community, have an opportunity to have the skills they need to get a good job. And it is true that most venture capital is highly concentrated in five or six communities around America. But those communities don't corner the market on great ideas or entrepreneurs. And so I will very much look forward to working with you to provide opportunity to all Americans.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you. Last question. With 95 percent of the world's potential customers living outside of our borders, it is important more than ever that we ensure that our businesses and farmers, reference to Senator Thune, we share a border, are able to capitalize on opportunities in these markets. And I am a strong supporter of the U.S. Commercial Service, which, as you know, is the export division of the Department's International Trade Administration, which handles trade promotion, has trade professionals in over 100 U.S. cities including my own, and has a presence in more than 70 countries. And during the Obama Administration, there was a lot of focus on this. And I think we need to do even more as we move forward on exports. What are your plans to improve the U.S. commercial service program, particularly for businesses based in rural areas?

Ms. RAIMONDO. So first, I agree with you. Second, I know this is an important area for you and I appreciate your leadership. Exports equal growth, equal more jobs. So I intend to be very aggressive, should I be confirmed, to make sure that the Department of Commerce is accessible to all businesses, particularly small, medium sized businesses, farmers, rurally located businesses. They ought to have access to the tools of the Department of Commerce to help them improve their exports. And so I will be very focused on that.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Very good. And I will put on the record, Mr. Chairman, questions about broadband as well as steel dumping, something I discussed with the Governor yesterday.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Klobuchar. Senator Blunt.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ROY BLUNT,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MISSOURI**

Senator BLUNT. Thank you, Chairman. Governor, I am sorry we haven't had a chance to visit yet but look forward to an opportunity to do that. Let's go right to the exports issue that you and Senator Klobuchar just talked about. I think one of the disadvantages we created for ourselves in the recent years are our tariffs on a number of things but particularly steel and aluminum. In my state, we make beer cans and bass boats and automobiles and pickup trucks. And I think we are disadvantaged—

Senator CANTWELL. Excuse me, Senator, don't you also make airplanes?

Senator BLUNT. And airplanes, exactly. And even Boeing airplanes, as a matter of fact.

The CHAIRMAN. Don't take that out of his time.

Senator BLUNT. But all of those things and well beyond, as Senator Cantwell just pointed out, well beyond any list I would come up with. President Biden said he would conduct a review of all existing tariffs. I am personally concerned about the 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum and wonder if you have any view on that issue?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes. Thank you very much for that question. I will say that here in Rhode Island, you know, we make submarines and electric boat who are consumers of steel and aluminum. And so I hear you and I appreciate your advocacy. Having said that, China has clearly behaved in ways that are anti-competitive, dumping cheap steel and aluminum into America, which hurts American workers and hurts the ability of our companies to compete. So should I be confirmed, I plan to be very aggressive to help Americans compete against the unfair practices of China.

I will say the President has been clear, we need to step back, review broadly our policies, trade policies as it relates to China, consult with our allies, and I will assure you that I will certainly listen to you, engage stakeholders, listen to the manufacturers in your state and take their needs into account. I also understand there is an exclusion process, and I will also commit to you, for consuming industries, and I will commit to you to ensure that that exclusions process is swift, fair, objective, and helps to balance the competing interests.

Senator BLUNT. Well, I do think, and I am sure you well understand that the dumping, the tariffs that are based on that are clearly tariffs that we should impose, and we shouldn't tolerate dumping, at the same time we shouldn't use National Security as just an excuse to have a tariff. And you are not suggesting we should. But anything you do on that front doesn't take away the tools you have from a country like China that may be dumping steel and aluminum. And I hope you will look at that that way. I was going to mention Brand USA and Senator Klobuchar and I talked—mentioned we have worked closely on that for a long time. It's a program that is working, was working obviously a lot better when people were traveling, but to be sure that we are continuing to project states like Minnesota and Missouri and Rhode Island that may not have their own budget, that would allow them to ap-

peal to foreign travelers the way Brand USA has. It is working. It is a great partnership.

I think we have gone through all of the challenges of a new program and see that program working a little better all the time. And you have already addressed that. Generally, the hospitality industry, travel, tourism, hospitality has been hurt as badly as any industry in this pandemic. And being sure when we establish barriers, like some concern right now that maybe everybody who travel to the United States should have had a vaccine or have some level of testing, I hope we really move forward looking at those issues with an understanding of how important that is to our economy.

We clearly want to win the fight against the virus, but we don't want to lose the fight for a reemerging economy in those areas. If you had any thoughts on whether there should be barriers on travel that the Commerce Department would be involved in?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, so thank you for the question. I would say this is something that I have lived every day since COVID because being Governor, you are in the position of wanting to protect people from COVID, but also make sure that you maintain as much of an economy as possible. President Biden has a fantastic team leading on COVID, and I have confidence in their ability to do that. I will simply say to you, I hear you and I feel we need to be very bold, aggressive, and creative to be to help the tourism and hospitality industry in light of the situation they are in.

Senator BLUNT. Thank you, Governor. Thank you, Chairman. I may have some questions for the record, but I have used up my time.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Blunt. Senator Blumenthal.

**STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD BLUMENTHAL,
U.S. SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT**

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome to the Committee and thank you for your willingness to continue your public service, Governor. I am really admiring and grateful of your record on environmental preservation, particularly your commitment, as you and I discussed, to the idea of a blue New Deal. I think a phrase originated by Senator Warren, but as the ocean State and our neighbor to Connecticut, I know that you are committed to our oceans and to the health of that treasure that we share. And in that connection, I was very gratified to see that President Biden has signed an Executive Order to reinstate the protections afforded by the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument last week. That is a cause that I championed. President Obama signed the Order establishing it. President Trump reversed it.

And now, fortunately, President Biden has reinstated it. And I understand that he is contemplating and will soon sign an Executive Order to establish a goal to conserve—to conserve 30 percent of all United States lands, fresh waters and oceans by 2030, which is known as 30 by 30. Thank you for your support of that measure as well. As you know, the quotas for fishing in our respective waters are outdated. And I would like your commitment that you will be working with me to get the Atlantic States Marine

Fisheries Commission and relevant fishery managers to update the outdated quotas for fishing, which affects the fishing industry in our respective states.

As you know, those quotas have been severely outdated for years, and they force many of our boats to throw back fish that are dead anyway and the quotas would, should be updated to enable them to keep some of that produce.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you and I know this is a vitally important area for you, you brought up with me a few times, and I definitely look forward to working with you on this. I will say that I understand, you know again being the Governor of the ocean state, 4,000 or 5,000 people make a living fishing here, having quotas, stock assessments, accurate based on data, science is important. And I that is—I will prioritize it. That is how I will lead. And I look forward to a dialogue with you on this.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Thank you. I know as your—in light of your background, both in the private sector and now as Governor, you are very well aware of the disparate impact the pandemic has had on minority-owned businesses. In fact, according to one report released by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, 41 percent of black owned businesses, 32 percent of Latino-owned businesses have gone under. What would be the role—what should be the role of the Minority Business Development Agency to help vulnerable and hopefully thriving, minority-owned businesses?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, thank you. COVID has shined a light on the inequities in our economy and the President has been very clear, we are going to build back better and more equitably. And I strongly support that. I believe NBDA can play a vital role in that. And certainly I have a lot of experience as Governor and place-based economic development. I am very proud of the fact that more than half of the people who have participated in our job training and placement effort post-COVID are women and people of color. So you have my commitment to lead in this area and to use the NBDA as a very important player in the rebuild effort.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Thank you. Finally, let me ask you about broadband connectivity. As you know, many parts of our country, including Rhode Island and Connecticut, are afflicted with the homework gap. The lack of connectivity is a severe barrier to young people trying to stay current and that is another problem that has been highlighted by the pandemic. Census's ACS program is one of the most reliable source of information about the homework gap. And I would appreciate your commitment that you will make, as a priority, the sources of information about the homework gap and the digital divide which are so necessary to our closing that gap.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, I will commit to prioritizing that and working with you on that.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Blumenthal. Senator Fischer.

**STATEMENT OF HON. DEB FISCHER,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEBRASKA**

Senator FISCHER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Governor, it is a pleasure to see you here today, and I appreciated you taking time

earlier to have a conversation with me. So it is an important job that you have put your name forward to take on. And again, I thank you for your willingness to serve. I am interested in talking more with you on technology and competitiveness. Just yesterday, the Center for Data Innovation Report assessed our country's artificial intelligence capabilities as being in a dead heat with China's.

At the end of 2020, two bills that I led to advance U.S. Policy on the Internet of Things and emerging technology both passed into law. The first is the DIGIT Act, which I worked on with Senator Schatz to ensure that the U.S. remains competitive on the development and deployment of IOT. This could add considerable value to our economy, especially in transportation, manufacturing, agriculture and also energy sectors. The bill, now law, directs the Secretary of Commerce to convene a public, private working group and a steering committee.

If confirmed as Secretary, will you prioritize implementing the DIGIT Act's working group structures in accordance with that law?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you, Senator, and thank you for your time the other day. I enjoyed the discussion. The answer is yes. I will look forward to working with you on that. Whether it is artificial intelligence or 5G or a block chain, we are in competition and it will be my job, should I be confirmed, to make sure that Americans can compete and get those jobs. And so convening that sort of a group would be absolutely a priority for me working with you.

Senator FISCHER. Great. Second, I led the Senate companion to the American COMPETE Act with Senator Sinema. The legislation directs the Commerce Department to complete a series of studies on emerging technologies. These studies will inform Congress on key sectors of emerging tech, which have major consequences for our country's economic success. The Secretary of Commerce plays an important part in conducting those studies in the Compete Act. Will you commit to ensuring that, if confirmed, the Secretary's office will take a lead role in fulfilling this responsibility?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you, Senator, for that, and yes, I will commit to working with you on that, focusing on that, and prioritizing it.

Senator FISCHER. Thank you. During our call last week, we talked about how NOAA works closely with the University of Nebraska on two important programs: the High Plains Regional Climate Center and the National Drought Mitigation Center. Both these programs provide important information on the climate across the country. If confirmed, will you work with me to ensure that NOAA continues to support and coordinate with UNL on these programs?

Ms. RAIMONDO. So thank you for bringing that up again. I know this is a priority of yours because you brought it up with me before, and I look forward to working with you. I will say here in my home state, NOAA has a significant presence and also works with our University of Rhode Island to great effect and to create innovation and jobs. So I will look forward to supporting you on that.

Senator FISCHER. Great. I appreciated in speaking with you about the Commerce Department recent actions against threats from China before this hearing. Would you further explain your perspective on the National Security risk regarding the Chinese

equipment suppliers to our communication networks, particularly with regard to Huawei?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, thank you. So National Security has to come first, obviously. And with respect to 5G, as we spoke about in your office, there is an opportunity to move forward in 5G and create great innovation and jobs. But we can't have the Chinese or really anyone having a backdoor into our network and compromising in any way our national or economic security. And so, as Commerce Secretary, should I be confirmed, I will use the full toolkit at my disposal to the fullest extent possible to protect Americans and our network from Chinese interference or any kind of backdoor influence into our network. And that is Huawei, ZTE, or you know any other company.

Senator FISCHER. Thank you very much. I appreciate your strong firmness on this issue because it is a National Security issue. We need, I think, to have a strong voice when we discuss these issues, and we need to follow up with strength as well. So I thank you for that firmness and look forward to working with you. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Fischer. Senator Schatz.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BRIAN SCHATZ,
U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII**

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member. Governor, thank you for the conversation yesterday. You mentioned in your testimony that Commerce has the tools and expertise to help communities and businesses address climate risk. Can you just talk about your top two or three priorities under existing statute?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you and good morning. There are a number of ways that Commerce could influence climate, but most principally through NOAA. As I said, some of the best scientists around atmospherics and oceans are at NOAA and are at the Department. So I would really look forward primarily through NOAA to address the climate issues posed by warming oceans, ocean debris, rising tides, the issues around fisheries and climate to lead again with science and rely on the experts in the Department. I think it is a very big role for NOAA to play in the blue economy, but also as we meet the challenges of climate.

Senator SCHATZ. Great. And I just encourage you, especially given what happened with the previous regime, to lock into whatever extent possible, a scientific integrity policy which doesn't swing back and forth depending on who the President may be. I want to pivot to the census, and I think I know the answer to this question, but I think it is important for the record, are you going to give the Census Bureau adequate time to compile and review apportionment and redistricting data?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes I, like you, I know from yesterday's conversation, I believe that we need to take the politics out of the Census, and we need to rely on the experts. The experts and statisticians in the Census Bureau are top notch. So I, once confirmed, intend to rely on them. And if they advise that more time is necessary, then I am going to follow the lead of their expertise.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you. We briefly spoke yesterday about the potential for aquaculture. I know your home state has a growing aquaculture industry, and Senator Wicker and I have legislation along those lines. As Secretary, will you work with Senator Wicker and myself and other members of the Committee to enact and implement bipartisan legislation to develop a responsible national aquaculture framework?

Ms. RAIMONDO. I would embrace that opportunity to work with you and your other colleagues. We here have used aquaculture successfully for oysters. I know there are different issues as it relates to finfish, but, yes, I would look forward to working with you.

Senator SCHATZ. Great. And you talked a little bit about a place-based economic development. Senator Thune and I authored, and it was signed into law, a law called the Native Act, which was bipartisan and is designed to strengthen native tourism and empower local communities to tell their own story. You know, Brand USA is important. Destination marketing is important. But a lot of the best opportunities for economic development are for small towns and cities and tribes and native communities to tell their own story.

And increasingly, that is what tourists want. The unfortunate fact is that even though the bill was enacted, it was never implemented by the previous Commerce Department Secretary. And I would like your commitment simply to implement the law and to consult with us as we go along.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Absolutely, yes.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you. And finally, as you know, Congress allocated \$1 billion to NTIA to fund broadband on tribal lands. Do you commit to establishing a fast and fair review process so that this money can be immediately deployed to help unconnected students and individuals during this pandemic?

Ms. RAIMONDO. I commit to you and all of your colleagues, because a number of you had brought it up, to move that as expeditiously, transparently, and effectively as possible. I do believe that broadband is a lifesaving and to many people living in rural and tribal lands don't have it. So, yes, I will prioritize it and get going quickly.

Senator SCHATZ. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Schatz. Senator Cruz.

STATEMENT OF HON. TED CRUZ, U.S. SENATOR FROM TEXAS

Senator CRUZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Governor, congratulations on your nomination. Welcome. In recent years, the United States has successfully used economic pressure to prevent the People's Republic of China from exploiting American technology to carry out human rights abuses. This is an area the previous Administration was particularly active in. Governor, should you be confirmed, can you please describe the role you envision for the Department of Commerce in these efforts, especially as that role relates to export and import controls?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, thank you. So as I said earlier, China's actions have been anti-competitive, hurtful to American workers and businesses coercive. And as you point out, you know, they are cul-

pable for atrocious human rights abuses. So whether it is the entities list or tariffs or countervailing duties, I intend to use all those tools to the fullest extent possible to level the playing field for the American worker.

I believe in free trade, but fair trade. Americans can compete if the rules are fair and the playing field is level. And I believe my job, should I be confirmed, is to increase the competitiveness for the American worker and companies, especially small businesses. President Biden has said that we are going to step back and have a whole of Government approach as it relates to the threat of China. And of course, I will play my role on that team.

Senator CRUZ. Well, as you noted, the Department of Commerce maintains the entity list, which is foreign parties that engage in activities contrary to U.S. National Security. And in 2019, I led an effort to add to that list companies the Chinese Communist Party has used to carry out their surveillance campaigns of Uyghurs and other oppressive activities. And I introduced legislation mandating that some of those companies be listed, the Tiananmen Act. And in the fall of 2019 and in 2020, the Trump Administration did so, adding batches of Chinese technology companies to the entities list. Can you commit, if confirmed, that those companies will remain on the BIS entities list?

Ms. RAIMONDO. I will commit to working with you on that, and I certainly agree with you that the entities list is a powerful tool in the Commerce Secretary's toolkit to shore up American National Security.

Senator CRUZ. Well, let me ask you about Huawei in particular. Can you commit that Huawei will remain on the list?

Ms. RAIMONDO. I will commit that once, should I be confirmed, and I am there, I will review the policy, consult with you, consult with industry, consult with our allies and make an assessment as to what's best for American national and economic security.

Senator CRUZ. Well, I will say there is chatter in Washington that the Biden Administration is contemplating going easy on China and removing companies from the entities list. I certainly hope that does not happen because I think that would be profoundly contrary to the National Security interests of the United States. The Department of Commerce's mandate and its mission is to create conditions for economic growth and opportunity. The Department of Commerce's job is to advocate for commerce, to advocate for jobs.

I will say I am certainly concerned that in the Biden Administration, the Commerce Department will not have that as its priority. President Biden has named you as a member of the interagency working group on the social cost of greenhouse gases. In what Federal statute does the Department of Commerce find legal authority to promulgate rules concerning greenhouse gases?

Ms. RAIMONDO. That is a good question. I am not certain, but I will tell you that President Biden asks me to serve on his team in a capacity to help American workers compete or to fight climate change, then I obviously will be a key player on that team.

Senator CRUZ. So, Governor, your current job as Governor of Rhode Island, as you know, in 2019, CNBC did its annual rankings of the states that are friendly to business, and the state of Rhode

Island came out 50th, dead last, the worst state in the union for businesses. Given that record, how are the American people—what reassurances can you give the American people that your performance at Commerce would be better than the state of Rhode Island has done in terms of creating an environment where jobs are plentiful?

Ms. RAIMONDO. When I ran for Governor, Rhode Island had the highest unemployment rate in the country. And just prior to COVID, we had the lowest unemployment rate in our state's history and the most jobs in our state's history. When I ran, we were 50 out of 50 on Business Insider's ranking and a couple of years into my term, we were 26th. So my record is clear that we have created thousands of jobs for the people of Rhode Island and I look forward to fighting for the American worker, should I be confirmed.

Senator CRUZ. And final question, should you be confirmed, last week President Biden signed an Executive Order canceling the Keystone pipeline, destroying 11,000 jobs, including 8,000 union jobs. If you were confirmed as Secretary of Commerce, what would you say to those 11,000 construction workers whose jobs have been destroyed by the stroke of a pen? And what would you say to them?

Ms. RAIMONDO. I would say we are going to get you to work. I would say that climate change is a threat to all of us and that we will make sure that you have jobs, that you have the skills you need to have a job. And by the way, as we meet the needs of climate change, there will be many more jobs created, good paying jobs, union jobs. And should I be the Commerce Secretary, I will fight every single day for every American to have a decent paying job and a chance to compete.

Senator CRUZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Cruz. Senator Markey, we have heard an awful lot from New England already today. Would you like to just yield back your time?

[Laughter.]

**STATEMENT OF HON. EDWARD MARKEY,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS**

Senator MARKEY. Well, this is a great game, Mr. Chairman. The Bay State and the Ocean State, we agree on a lot of issues and we are small in numbers, but we are mighty on policies. And Governor Raimondo is a perfect example of someone who is just an incredible leader on issues that make her state cutting edge in just so many areas. And I would like to if I could begin, Governor, by taking two subjects I usually raise in committees with Senator Wicker, and that is telecommunications and climate change. And we are going to need programs and I am going to be introducing legislation toward this effect in order to protect our telecommunications networks, our fiber optic networks, and harden them against the impact of climate change. So I am asking you whether or not you would work with me toward the goal of putting together the programs that will help to ensure that that infrastructure gets protected from the inevitability of the climate change that is already built into our atmosphere?

Ms. RAIMONDO. It would be my honor to work with you. I have long admired your leadership in this area. And yes, I would look forward to that.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you. In the most recent relief bill, the one that we passed right at the end of 2020, we were able to include \$300 million for relief for the fishing industry, something that you are very familiar with. So I would love to hear your views on how quickly, expeditiously that funding can get out into the hands of the fishing industry in all of its various manifestations.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you, Senator. I know you are very committed to the fishermen in your state. We have talked about it, and like you, I come from a state with thousands of fishermen. Should I be confirmed, I will assess that very quickly and make sure that it is distributed as expeditiously as possible. The fishermen are struggling like so many others right now, and we need to do our best to get the money out the door quickly and effectively and transparently.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you. And NOAA is just such a critical agency in terms of protecting our country against the impact of climate change. And I have a number of pieces of legislation. One, with Senator Sullivan, the Ocean Research Act to designate funding for critical research on ocean acidification. I have a Climate Change Education Act so that NOAA could study and dispense grants on key climate health and jobs related issues. So would you, if confirmed, would you work with me on those issues on climate health and marine science priorities?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, I would look forward to working with you.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you very much. Appreciate it. And the Nation's first Federal fisheries lab was established at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, in 1871, 150 years ago. The Northeast Fisheries Science Center is an invaluable part of Massachusetts fishery and science community. So, Governor, would you commit that NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center will remain in Massachusetts?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Senator, I deeply admire your advocacy on this issue. I think you have brought it up with me every time we have spoken. And should I be confirmed, I will commit to look into that and work with you on it.

Senator MARKEY. Well, I thank you for that. And again, I would like to ask you to come and visit at Woods Hole so that we can show you the incredible work that is being done right there on all these fishery issues as well. And I would also ask you, Governor, if you would consider adding additional NOAA facilities and capacity in New Bedford and in other areas of Massachusetts in order to provide the on-the-ground expertise on fishing, offshore wind and other issues important to Massachusetts communities?

Ms. RAIMONDO. I would look forward to coming to Wood Hole and to New Bedford and exploring that with you.

Senator MARKEY. And I appreciate very much. Obviously, workers, fishermen have been under enormous stress over this past year and before. And so I look forward to working with you. I think you are going to be a great Secretary of Commerce. You bring just an incredible background that has prepared you for this moment in our country's history. So I thank you for your service to Rhode Island, and to our country in the years ahead. Thank you.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Thank you, Senator Markey. Senator Moran.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JERRY MORAN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM KANSAS**

Senator MORAN. Chairman Wicker, thank you. Governor Raimondo, thank you for being with us today. And thank you for the conversation we have had recently. Let me start with an issue for me as an appropriator. As we discussed yesterday, I chair the subcommittee on Appropriations that funds the Department of Commerce. We raised with you yesterday, and I want to do again today, do so again today, a couple of large, mission-critical, high-cost items within the Department of Commerce's budget. Two of the Department's largest bureaus, NOAA and NIST, are both facing crises as it relates to recapitalizing, aging and in some cases, obsolete infrastructure. I recently visited the NOAA Aircraft Operations Center where I learned about the need to recapitalize the agency's fleet of hurricane hunter aircraft, an effort that will require more than \$600 million in funding before 2024.

Likewise, earlier this year, I visited the NIST campus in Boulder, Colorado, and the laboratories clearly are aging, and they are housing some of our Nation's most premier scientists tasked with some of our country's most challenging issues in science and technology. So unfortunately, the funding crisis for these capital costs are often not included in the department's budget or in those agencies' budgets request. It is difficult to take things out of everyday operations and put them into things that are necessary for long-term benefits.

But I would ask you if you will include and prioritize in the Department's budget request that we will see later this year and commit to testifying before our subcommittee in regard to these and the other appropriations items?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you, Senator, and thank you for bringing this up as you did yesterday. So first, let me say I certainly concur that some of the finest scientists and mathematicians in America are at NIST and at the Department, and they do deserve adequate facilities. And I will commit to looking into this and learning more and certainly coming back to you, should I be confirmed.

Senator MORAN. Governor, thank you. I raised also with you in our conversation something I wanted to raise again, because I don't know that it will be mentioned by anyone else. And I wouldn't expect you to be terribly knowledgeable about this topic. But it is a topic of fertilizer, phosphate fertilizer that farmers use to grow crops. It is the second most important fertilizer behind nitrogen. And on February 8, just a few days from now, Commerce is scheduled to make a final determination on countervailing duties on phosphate fertilizers from Morocco, which is one of our Nation's largest suppliers. Since the CBD investigation began, the price for those fertilizers in the United States has increased approximately 25 percent.

The higher prices are being passed on to farmers, increasing their input costs. And it comes at an always challenging time for farmers and ultimately comes at a very challenging time for consumers. Governor, I need to highlight this issue and hope that in

making a final determination on those duties on phosphate fertilizers, you will assure me that you will take into account the broad impact of those duties that they have on the agricultural economy, on input costs and on the consumer.

And I would ask you to consult—I have a conversation with nominee, Governor Vilsack, Secretary Vilsack to have this conversation as well and I am going to encourage him to visit with you about this issue before February the 8th. I need some reassurance that you understand the magnitude and challenge of this issue for everyday farmers and ranchers in this country.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, thank you. Thank you for bringing it up. I know your passion for this, and I appreciate your advocacy on behalf of your constituents. Yes, as with all countervailing duties and tariffs, I understand the pain that some of these decisions can cause to farmers in your state. And I absolutely look forward to working with you and Secretary Vilsack. I will—a strong relationship with him generally as it relates to all export policies for agriculture and farmers and imports.

Senator MORAN. Two other items that I was intended to bring up or have been brought up by others, I would highlight them again for you, the Privacy Shield also has a consequence for data privacy that Senator Blumenthal and I, in particular, have worked on. And also Senator Blunt raised this morning the issue of 232 tariffs, and I appreciate the conversation we had on those. Finally, I would say, Governor, you have prioritized everyone's request for things that you prioritize. And so I would finally ask you, will you prioritize my requests over the priorities of other members of this committee?

[Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. Don't thank him for that question.

Ms. RAIMONDO. It is probably one commitment I surely cannot make.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Baldwin is next.

**STATEMENT OF HON. TAMMY BALDWIN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM WISCONSIN**

Senator BALDWIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Governor Raimondo, as we discussed last week, I hold our Federal research mission in the highest regard. I think I shared that my grandfather who raised me was an NIH-funded researcher at the University of Wisconsin Madison. As Commerce Secretary, you will enforce the Bayh-Dole Act, which dictates how technology developed with Federal research dollars can be transferred to the private sector. Bayh-Dole retains some rights over new inventions for the Federal Government in order to—the public interest. It also includes a requirement that these cutting-edge inventions be manufactured in the United States. At the very end of the Trump Administration, NIST proposed a new rule that would prohibit the Federal Government reasserting its ownership rights over an invention if a private company is charging too much.

In the middle of a pandemic and a recession, it doesn't seem like the right time for us to limit the Government's ability to make products Americans need more affordable. So, in fact, I believe that innovations that are paid for by the American taxpayer should be used to improve the lives of the American people. Governor, will

you work with me to amend or change those rules so we can create jobs and provide Americans affordable access to new cutting-edge products?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you, Senator, for bringing that up, as you did the other day, and, yes, I will commit to working with you. I will also say that in my time in the private sector as a venture capitalist, we worked extensively with universities around tech transfer. And so I do have some familiarity with the power of how many jobs you can create if you harness that sort of technology. And this is, you know, a leader in that.

Senator BALDWIN. Thank you. The Department of Commerce also has the opportunity to play an important role in ensuring that our Nation's infrastructure is more resilient to the effects of climate change and extreme weather events. In Wisconsin and throughout the Midwest that means infrastructure that can withstand severe flooding that is occurring with increased regularity. My bipartisan Built to Last Act would help ensure Federal, state, and local, and private infrastructure is more resilient by equipping those who develop building codes with the best available climate information and technical assistance if needed. The bill includes directives for NOAA and NIST, and it could be carried out by executive action. So, Governor, if confirmed, do I have your commitment to supporting climate resilient infrastructure, including efforts like those in my bipartisan Built to Last Act?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you. I look forward to learning more about what is in the bill specifically. But certainly I, and again, I am a Governor of a coastal state. We are uniquely vulnerable to the harms of climate change. I understand the value of shoring up our infrastructure and, you know, look forward to working with you on the issue.

Senator BALDWIN. Thank you. In 2013, I successfully worked to reopen the process at NOAA that allows states to nominate their nationally significant marine areas for Federal protection as national marine sanctuaries. And Wisconsin has nominated an area of Lake Michigan. This proposal required and garnered tremendous local support and a wide range of stakeholders have worked together for years to plan and advocate for, to protect and celebrate this really remarkable resource. Do you support the mission of NOAA's Marine Sanctuary Program? And if confirmed, would you ensure that the pending designation process for the Wisconsin Marine Sanctuary moves forward without delay?

Ms. RAIMONDO. So thank you for bringing this up and for advocating. You know, I do support the process and I will assure you I will look into the details of that and move it forward to the best of my abilities.

Senator BALDWIN. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Baldwin. Senator Sullivan.

**STATEMENT OF HON. DAN SULLIVAN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM ALASKA**

Senator SULLIVAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And Governor, I appreciated our opportunity to have a good discussion on a number of critical issues yesterday, so thanks for your time. And I am going to follow up on some of those in my remarks. One thing that I

didn't get to ask you about was this issue that you highlighted in your testimony today which I watched, and I thought was very powerful, good paying jobs and the story about your dad losing a job. I think that is going to be critical as we are in this recession. And to be honest, one of the things I am worried about, we have had a huge development in America with regard to the energy sector.

This is everything, renewables, clean energy, oil, gas, where we have become the dominant player in the world. Pretty remarkable. Almost everybody thinks that is a good thing to be the superpower of energy again, all of the above energy. And it definitely produces millions of good jobs. It has reduced greenhouse gas emissions with the revolution in natural gas spreads, stretched budgets for families. But one concern I have, I am having a hard time finding anyone in the Biden, incoming Biden cabinet who will be an advocate for a strong energy sector in America. This, to me, seems like a very basic, non-controversial proposition and in fact, out of the gate, some of the Biden Administration's moves seem to be directly targeted at actually killing energy sector jobs or related sectors.

So can I ask you to commit to being that advocate, given your important position, should you be confirmed for the energy sector, broad based, everything, renewables, clean energy, wind, as you have been a leader in, but also traditional energy, oil and gas, and certainly not to be an advocate for targeting putting thousands of people out of work in the sector, which has already happened in the first week of the Obama or Biden Administration. Can I get your commitment on that?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you, Senator. Thank you for your time yesterday. Obviously as Commerce Secretary, I will not be playing a primary role on President Biden's team as it relates to energy policy. But I will do everything within my power to help create jobs for American people. And as it relates to NOAA, I think that as Commerce Secretary, should I be confirmed, I will have the opportunity to help create thousands of jobs with offshore wind in particular.

Senator SULLIVAN. Let me—well, I appreciate that. I just want to make sure that again there shouldn't be discrimination against good paying jobs, and I am starting to feel that there is. And we shouldn't have that in our country, particularly as we are in a recession. Let me talk and again, I really appreciated our opportunities to chat yesterday. I just want to get your commitments that we talked about. You know, having broad based sustainable fisheries is going to be critical for America. You will be the leader in this if confirmed overseeing NOAA.

As I mentioned yesterday, over two-thirds, almost two-thirds of all fish harvested in the United States come from Alaska. So we are the superpower of seafood. No offense to my colleague, Senator Scott, who is sitting right next to me from Florida. But can I get your commitment to work with me on surveys, on data to make sure the United States and my state continue to have the most sustainable, best managed fisheries in the world?

Ms. RAIMONDO. So first, let me say that in my state, we have over 4,000 people who make a living commercial fishing, and they have for generations. They did, their father, their grandfather did.

And I understand how important that part of the economy is in your state. And you have a strong commitment to work closely with you on making sure that the surveys and the stock assessments, etcetera, are fact-based, science based, and we really take into account the needs and concerns of the fishermen and the stakeholders in your state.

Senator SULLIVAN. Well, I appreciate that. And I appreciated your discussion of your own background on fisheries. I think that is going to be critical if confirmed as you come into this role. Finally on an area that we talked about yesterday, and I will have more questions for the record to submit. But on the healthy oceans, can you commit to working with me and other members of the Senate in a bipartisan way on the implementation of the Save Our Seas 2.0, which Senator Whitehouse and I were able to get over the goal line and signed by President Trump in December, which will—Congressional researchers call it the most comprehensive ocean cleanup legislation ever to come out of the Congress. A lot of the implementation that will be under your leadership if confirmed.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, absolutely.

Senator SULLIVAN. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator. Thank you very much, Senator Sullivan. Before I recognize Senator Peters, let me say we have 11 members who have not yet asked questions, 13 members have asked questions, and we have a vote at noon, which we will work through. But I do ask members to stick very closely to the 5-minute rule. Senator Peters.

**STATEMENT OF HON. GARY PETERS,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MICHIGAN**

Senator PETERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And Governor Raimondo, it is certainly great to see you and congratulations on your nomination and your willingness to serve in this capacity. Certainly, I enjoyed our opportunity to talk at length on a number of these issues prior to this meeting. And among the many things that I learned, I was very pleased to know your very strong family connections to the state of Michigan from your husband and all of your in-laws up in Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

And those Michigan roots that you have in your family are wonderful and happy to hear that. And I also appreciate it, and you have said, you have talked about the story again in today's hearing about your father's struggles related to manufacturing and the need for us to make sure that we have a strong manufacturing sector in this country. I know it is something that you feel very passionate about. And if this pandemic has taught us anything, it is that our domestic manufacturing and that our supply chains are vulnerable because we have not prioritized and coordinated manufacturing policy at the Federal level in a way that we should.

I believe you can't be a great country if you don't actually make things. And in order to do that, we need to lean in. Given the fact that although we have 58 different manufacturing programs within the Federal Government, they are spread out over 11 different Federal agencies. There is duplication, there is wasted resources and there isn't a singular vote. And when we talked earlier, I talked about legislation that I have proposed to create a National Insti-

tute of Manufacturing that would give that unified voice and that coordinated strategy that some of our main competitors, like South Koreans and Germany, are engaged in, to allow us to compete effectively. It would establish a chief manufacturing officer, require a national strategic plan for manufacturing, and elevate National Manufacturing Council, something that has been basically defunct over the last 4 years under the Trump Administration, build out the manufacturing.gov is one stop hub for small and medium manufacturers to get additional help to make sure that their businesses are as successful as possible, as well as create a national institute.

So my question for you Governor is, if confirmed as Secretary, will you commit with this committee and with me to elevate manufacturing policy generally, perhaps speak to that, as well as strengthening our industrial sector by addressing some of the items that I brought up?

Ms. RAIMONDO. So thank you for that question. I will wholeheartedly commit to, should I be confirmed, using all of the strength and tools of the Commerce Department to do everything I can to bolster manufacturing. As I said, it is important to me. It is how I was raised. I have worked very closely as my time as Governor with the Rhode Island manufacturers and would look forward to working closely with you as well.

Senator PETERS. Well, thank you for that. One of the big challenges facing smaller manufacturing industries and domestic producers is unfair trade from foreign Governments. We have an issue in Michigan with our cherry growers. So we are cherry capital USA, our tart cherry producers, but they are facing significant, unfair trade from Turkey that has had a significant negative impact on their ability to produce. And quite frankly, it is an existential threat.

I have introduced legislation to empower the Commerce Department to be more actively engaged in self initiating enforcement actions to help smaller manufacturers, smaller producers like cherry growers. In Michigan, we have cherry growers who are facing this competition. And in order to fight back, they had to raise millions of dollars to take the case forward. These are small growers that don't have the money to put up to do that because they are struggling just to keep their operation functioning and they really need a partner. And I certainly believe that the Federal Government can be that partner for those industries that can't hire an army of lawyers and economists to fight these trade actions.

I am working on legislation, self-initiation legislation with Senator Burr, a bipartisan basis and certainly, if confirmed, would love to have your commitment to work on how we strengthen our ability to push back on unfair foreign competition for our small industries, small manufacturers, and others that are being impacted by this activity.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you for bringing it up. You brought it up the other day. I hear your passion to stick up for the cherry industry. Absolutely will work with you. Will also commit to making Commerce more accessible to the small companies and farmers and work with Secretary Vilsack to do that. I think, as I told you every year on his birthday, I make my husband a cherry cake with Michigan cherry. So on this one, you had me at hello.

Senator PETERS. Well, that is wonderful, Governor. Thank you for your answers.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Senator Peters. Senator Blackburn.

**STATEMENT OF HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE**

Senator BLACKBURN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Governor, thank you for your time yesterday in order to work through some of these questions. I do appreciate the time that you gave me on the phone. And I appreciate some of your comments that you made. I know that a lot of people have focused on the seas and fisheries, but instead of the high waves I am going to take you, or the high seas, I am going to take you up there to spectrum. And let's look at the utilization of spectrum. And of course, the NTIA and their positioning in making certain that they are properly managing broadband, they are properly managing spectrum by the Federal Government. So we talked a little bit about 5G yesterday and having that 5G telecommunications network. And so a simple yes or no for the record. Do you or do you not support nationalization of a 5G telecommunications network?

Ms. RAIMONDO. I do not. I share your concerns about a nationalized 5G network.

Senator BLACKBURN. Thank you. I appreciate that. Let's look at the broadband mapping. We talked a little bit about the importance of getting rural America online and connected. And mapping is a big part of this. You have the 477 maps that FCC and NTIA have worked to complete. And so how do you plan to leverage the national broadband availability map in making policy recommendations for rural Internet access, putting a distinction between those areas that are unserved and underserved?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you, Senator. So first, let me just say I look forward to working with you and learning from you on this, and you have my commitment to prioritize underserved areas, including rural and tribal areas. I have heard for the past 10 months from many Governors, Republican and Democrat alike, all across America, about how many of their citizens don't have access to broadband, which means they can't go to school, go to the doctor to sign up for a vaccine. I commit to having a strong NTIA, a spectrum strategy, looking at the maps, looking at ways to share spectrum, looking at ways to find spectrum to be available so that we can close the digital divide. It is not a luxury good. I mean, people, everybody deserves access to broadband.

Senator BLACKBURN. If I may, you use putting the emphasis on underserved. What we need to do and have to do is put the emphasis on unserved areas, those that have nothing. What got the Federal Government, I think, quite frankly, into a little bit of a problem during the Obama and Biden stimulus, was they allowed underserved. That is why you have some cities that have a gig and right outside that city limit, you have nothing. So, Governor, I would just highlight with you that is a very important distinction. And we need to prioritize these unserved areas because you cannot, as we discussed yesterday, have access to 21st century economic development, health care, education, or law enforcement without

access to high-speed Internet. Privacy Shield, we talked a little bit about Privacy Shield yesterday. So how do you plan to continue the Privacy Shield negotiations with the Europeans?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you. As I said, I understand that Privacy Shield is necessary for many companies, especially small companies who rely upon transfers of data. So I intend to, should I be confirmed, prioritize finalizing the negotiations so we have a successor agreement that enables these businesses to conduct their business.

Senator BLACKBURN. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Blackburn. Governor Raimondo, Senator Blackburn hammers home a very important point. There is \$1.3 billion in broadband grants, \$1 billion for tribal areas, \$300 million for broadband deployment in unserved areas. We absolutely have to make sure that money is devoted to unserved, absolutely unserved areas and make sure that those funds are not used to overbuild areas that already have some service. So I am glad we have re-emphasized that point again. Senator Duckworth, you are recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH,
U.S. SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS**

Senator DUCKWORTH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Governor Raimondo. Congratulations on your nomination. I enjoyed speaking with you last week, and I am confident that your executive experience working with business to grow the economy in your home state of Rhode Island will prepare you well to lead the Commerce Department. In my view, I think Commerce is one of the more underrated departments in the Federal Government. And with strong leadership and robust funding, Commerce could play a critical role in helping American manufacturers, small business owners, and entrepreneurs commercialize products, reach new customers, and hire even more workers. I am going to turn my volume up just a little bit. Sorry about this.

On that note, I wanted to know how we can do to promote American innovation, supporting long neglected communities and leveling the playing field for U.S. Companies competing with foreign competitors. There are three programs in particular I would like to discuss with you, which we did talk about when we met last week. First, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. One of the most pivotal programs overseen by a Commerce is the MEP. My state partner organization with the MEP network, IMEC, delivers incredible value to Illinois small businesses and manufacturers by helping improve their operations, implement long term strategy, commercialize their products, and grow their companies. And last year, IMEC helped small businesses in my state weather the COVID-19 crisis and assist others at a very critical moment in our fight against a pandemic. For instance, when a company in Bensenville wanted to remake some of its products to help first responders, health care workers, service members and service providers to decontaminate N-95 masks quickly, they turned to IMEC to make sure that they were fully compliant with available guidance and working with the right Government partners in the fight against COVID.

Now, I know you have the same success story in Rhode Island itself. Your own Polaris MEP helped connect your state with a nearby manufacturing company to produce vitally needed PPE gowns last year. And I imagine you share my confusion when you heard that the Trump Administration in every single budget has sought to eliminate all Federal funding for a MEP, not once but in every single budget that they have put forward. Seeking to eliminate MEP which is enthusiastically supported by Democratic and Republican members alike, may have been one of the most short-sighted and unbelievable proposals that Trump Administration sent up the Hill.

I was pleased to join a broad bipartisan majorities in Congress on multiple occasions to not only reject Trump's effort to gut the MEP program, but to go further and increasing funding for Fiscal Year 2021. Governor Raimondo, can you describe your experience working with MEP as Governor of Rhode Island and provide your commitment to work with me and championing even greater Federal investment in IMEC, Polaris MEP and the entire MEP national network?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you, Senator. Yes, I have had a fantastic experience here in Rhode Island with our MEP program and I am a strong supporter of the MEP program. President Biden has said he would like to have it expanded, which is something I support. I think I have been clear today that, should confirmed, I would like to be a champion for the American worker, but American manufacturers and do everything I can, including executing MEP to expand the industry, promote innovation, and help be a leader in manufacturing.

Senator DUCKWORTH. Thank you. Would you also show the same support for the EDA, Economic Development Administration, the EDA program, especially on prioritizing President Biden's proposal to establish a new EDA division focused on helping disadvantaged communities get ahead? And will you help my office with some technical assistance to help us codify this effort into law to ensure that it lasts through successive Administrations?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Should I be confirmed, I will make sure you have full access to me and all the tools in the department to work with you on that. And again, as Governor, I see how powerful EDA can be in a community for economic development, and I would look forward to leading with you in that area, in your state and every state.

Senator DUCKWORTH. Thank you. And my colleague from Michigan, Senator Peters, just talked about the cherry wars with the country of Turkey. And you and I chatted a little bit about steel dumping and how desperately needed the Department of Commerce is when it comes to businesses trying to settle trade disputes. If confirmed as Secretary of Commerce, how will you prioritize trade enforcement and work with other agencies to combat circumvention of our Nation's trade laws through practices like the transshipping of goods, while providing small businesses with confidence that their interests will be aggressively represented in the trade remedy process? By the time that they can bring their own case, they are out of business and bankrupt. They need your help.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, I understand that. As I said, I think the American worker can compete if the rules are fair, and I will enforce to the fullest extent possible the rules that Commerce has to protect American workers and businesses, with special eye to smaller businesses that struggle, as you say.

Senator DUCKWORTH. Would you consider having someone within your office like a trade czar or somebody who would head up that effort when it comes to trade disagreements?

Ms. RAIMONDO. You mentioned that the other day. I think it is a very interesting idea and I look forward to learning more about it.

Senator DUCKWORTH. Thank you. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Senator Capito.

**STATEMENT OF HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO,
U.S. SENATOR FROM WEST VIRGINIA**

Senator CAPITO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Ranking Member Cantwell. Thank you, Governor, for being not only nominated, but thank you for your testimony and willingness to speak to me as it seems like you have spoken to everybody, which is incredible. Last week I enjoyed our conversation. We talked about some of the same issues that many people have brought up. I am going to go to the EDA, first of all. You and I talked about how the EDA's presence in your state of Rhode Island and I have talked about how impactful and what a growing impact EDA has had in our states.

But I do have a question in terms of the President's proposed stimulus recommends an additional \$3 billion for EDA. And I value and respect the focus of that. I have great concerns about an agency that has an annual budget of \$330 million to be able to absorb not just the \$3 billion that he is proposing, but also the \$1.5 billion that we put in with the CARES Act. So how would you propose to be able to meet that capacity, a challenge I think the EDA would have, to make sure that the money is being spent not only in—not just throw it out, but also making sure that it is targeted, well spent, and efficiently spent? Do you have any ideas on that?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, thank you. So first, let me say, as we rebuild post-COVID, I believe that the EDA can and needs to play a very strong and important role in the rebuilding to help Americans get back to work in their communities. Second, I understand your concern. I have been Governor for 6 years, a public executive for 10 years. Implementation matters and I have a strong track record of good management, transparency, and implementation.

And what I will say to you is I understand the concern. It is obviously very valid. I need to get in the job, and be confirmed, and we will come back to you with your permission to have a discussion about, you know, whether there are any additional resources needed in EDA in order to effectively implement such a large infusion.

Senator CAPITO. I would welcome that. I think that would be wise and I think that would be a great way to address the challenge. I am going to switch over to NTIA and I know some others have asked you about this, but we talked about broadband in your state. You have more urban broadband issues. We have a lot of rural broadband. Certainly this committee has done a lot of work

in this. But one of the areas that we have really fallen short is on the mapping situation. Who really is served and to what degree are they served and what can we do to more accurately deploy the Federal resources to those that it is intended for, the unserved and underserved?

And so I would just encourage you, West Virginia was one of the first eight states to be in the broadband mapping. There are now 22 states that are in there. They are using state resources as well, because you can't just rely on the providers to tell you where they are serving or just one state entity, I think you—or Federal entity. I think you need an all hands-on deck approach. And I know this is important to you for your state. Do you have any other perspectives on how we can get to that broadband mapping accurately when we see the urgency the pandemic has brought for broadband deployment?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you. I share your urgency on this. And as I have said, it is lifesaving. People need access to broadband to go to the doctor, to go to school, to have a job. So I will commit to prioritizing it and also to engaging stakeholders. I have learned in my time as Governor that if you talk to people on the ground, companies, constituencies, individuals, you have a better assessment of the challenges on the ground and therefore, you know, better able to meet their needs.

Senator CAPITO. I think that is a great approach. Sounds like a good Governor approach to me at the same time. And last, I will just mention as I did to you, our NOAA facility that we are very proud of in Fairmont. We do a lot of supercomputing there. We also have the Enterprise Security Operations Center, which it does a lot of cybersecurity. You can imagine a lot of the data that is collected, and the satellite sphere is very important to our National Security, but also to our homeland security in terms of protecting life and property, in terms of being able to not just predict, but be able to front-run certain kinds of what would potentially be weather disasters or other things.

So I would just, I mentioned to you, I invite you to come to Fairmont on your confirmation and to see the NOAA facility and see where the great folks in Fairmont could be more helpful and use that expertise that they, combined with the educational centers, to be able to enlarge their presence. And my time is done, and I listen to what my Chairman says, and he says, stick to the time. So, thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Capito. Senator Tester.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JON TESTER,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MONTANA**

Senator TESTER. I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, both Chairmen as a matter of fact, and I want to thank you Governor for being here. I come to you a bit blurry today, and I am not even in Montana. I am in D.C., which brings me to broadband.

The CHAIRMAN. I am actually seeing double here on the screen.

Senator TESTER. Yes, I know, I know. Just, close one eye and it will be better. So I want to talk broadband a little bit, Governor. There—it is a four-or five-legged stool with the FCC, Rural Development, USDA, and NTIA. I think that is an incredible challenge

and getting what many of the questions have talked about and getting broadband built into unserved areas.

Tell me what your—tell me if you thought about this, number one. And number two, do you have some ideas on how to get the different agencies to work as one? I, quite frankly, think we ought to put it into one. And I know there is some difficulties in doing that, but it is really tough to have accountability when you have four different agencies doing the same thing.

Ms. RAIMONDO. So thank you for this, and I just again want to reiterate that this will be a strong focus of mine because I know it is a problem on tribal lands, rural, you know, everywhere. And I have learned in my time as Governor a bit about how to break down silos in Government. It is difficult, but I believe it is possible if we have a shared goal, as we will in this instance. It is bipartisan. It is necessary.

We need to break down the silos and come together to achieve that goal. And I will just commit to you that I will lead on the issue and also collaborate, as you say, with the FCC, with other areas of Government in order to make sure we deliver for the American people. The American people don't care about our silos and bureaucracy. They want us to deliver and that is what I will work on.

Senator TESTER. Well, I appreciate that. And just to show how effective you are, I am now in focus. So that is incredible work Governor already and you are not even confirmed. Look, in Montana, the wood products industry is really an important industry. It creates a lot of jobs, provides lumber for building homes and corrals and everything else. The duties on softwood lumber, I would hope you would maintain that where they are now, because it is fair and it offers full opportunity for forest management and creation of jobs across Montana, across the West, you know, across the whole country. Maine is also there. I am sure Michigan and other places are too.

So I appreciate you doing that. And I want to talk about the Census just really quickly, because it is generally believed that because of the pandemic and because of this Administration's inability to get things right, the census numbers are not right. And I was wondering if you have any ideas on how to address that? I will tell you that I think it is a challenge in rural America and it is a particular challenge in any country where the pandemic hit them very, very hard. Do you have any ideas on how to, after the fact, try to get these numbers accurate?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, I appreciate that. And I have worked hard here to make sure everybody is counted. As I said, first, let's take the politics out. And second, you have to listen to the experts. So I look forward to being confirmed, getting in the seat, and really rolling up my sleeves and listening to the experts and relying on, in the Census Department, relying on their assessment and evaluation as to how accurate the data is. And if they need more time, then certainly open to that.

Senator TESTER. Well, just to give you a data point. In Blackfeet, the self-response rate was 29 percent. And I think it is pretty similar that across the large land-based tribes in this country. And so there is a lot of work to do. Very quickly, because I have only got

a minute and 20 seconds. China has been brought up a number of times. You have talked about your philosophy of free but fair trade. I think this Administration has botched up the relationships with trade with China by, quite frankly, trying to go it alone.

And I don't think you can do that. I think not only has the United States been impacted by China's currency manipulation and other things, but other countries are too. Can you give me an idea on how you are going to deal with China? Because they are not going to change unless they are forced to change. And just to stand up at a podium and scream and holler about how unfair things are, is not going to get it done.

And so can you tell me what your plan for China is going to be as far as this country and other countries and what your recommendations to Biden and the Biden Administration are going to be when it comes to China?

Ms. RAIMONDO. So, first of all, I would say we cannot underestimate the threat. Second of all, it has to require a whole of Government response. And I will play my role in that if confirmed. Third, I agree with you that we need to work with our allies, and we need to be very serious because it is not fair what is happening to American workers.

Senator TESTER. Thank you. And thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Tester. Senator Johnson.

**STATEMENT OF HON. RON JOHNSON,
U.S. SENATOR FROM WISCONSIN**

Senator JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Governor. Let me start out by apologizing if I ask you questions that you have already covered. I did chair a business meeting on the consideration of Ale Mayorka's nomination, which was reported favorably on the floor. So I apologize up front. I do want to cover Section 230 and the power of the social media companies. Let me just first start by asking you, do you believe that social media companies have amassed too much power, both commercially as well as from a standpoint of media and a role in censorship? Let's start just commercially, their ability to just the platform businesses without any kind of recourse.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Well, I believe in competition and innovation and as it relates to social media companies, I think they need to be held accountable for what they put on their platform. We need responsible online discourse and platform accountability.

Senator JOHNSON. That didn't really answer the question, do you believe they have become too powerful? Do you think the Federal Government does need to step in and take some kind of action as it is unclear what that action really should be?

Ms. RAIMONDO. That is an issue that I think I would leave to Congress and the FTC, but as I said, I believe in competition and I think that it is important that we look at the social media companies in that regard.

Senator JOHNSON. They are really, from my standpoint, two components of Section 230, liability protection. One is protection from what people load onto your platform. The other one is in what they call their moderation policies. One thing I think I have proposed is leave in place the liability protection on what people load onto

your platform. But really take a serious look at removing the liability protection for the fact that you maybe don't have transparent policies and how you do censor, how you do moderate, what your moderation policies are. Would you agree with that approach?

Ms. RAIMONDO. I would agree that we need some reform in Section 230, and I would look forward to working with you on that. I know you are a leader in this area, and I would use, if confirmed, use the resources at NTIA to convene stakeholders, convene industry, consult you and other Members of Congress to figure out the details of that reform.

Senator JOHNSON. Well, there is an interesting article in *The Wall Street Journal* written by Andy Kessler today where he shares my concern that if Congress gets involved in this, chances are we will probably do more harm than good. But one of his proposals really was to end anonymity.

When you have people being able to hop onto these social platforms completely anonymous, you end up with the result we have. I thought is a pretty interesting proposal. What would you think about—the basic concept was the Facebooks, the Twitters of the world have to know their customers so that if there is incitement, if there are problems, those customers can be held accountable? Do you think that is something you could support?

Ms. RAIMONDO. As I said, I think platform accountability is important. I have seen in my own state that misinformation hurts people. You know, misinformation posted anonymously or otherwise can hurt people. So we have to hold these companies accountable. We need platform accountability. But, of course, that reform would have to be balanced against the fact that these businesses rely upon user generated content for their innovation and they have created many thousands of jobs. So I think it is a complex issue. I know you are a leader in it, and I look forward to working with you.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Johnson, let's put that *Wall Street Journal* piece in the record at this point. Is there objection to that?

Senator JOHNSON. Without objection.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, it would be done.

[The information referred to follows:]

ONLINE SPEECH WARS ARE HERE TO STAY

BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT WANT TO REGULATE SOCIAL MEDIA, BUT THEIR 'FIXES' WOULD
BREAK THE WEB.

By Andy Kessler—Jan. 24, 2021 5:14 pm ET



PHOTO: DADO RUVIC/REUTERS

Ding dong, he's gone, but *Donald Trump's* bans from *Facebook*, *Twitter*, *Google*, *Reddit*, *Snapchat*, *Grindr* (wait, what?), *Pinterest*, *TikTok* and others mostly persist. Don't bans on Mr. Trump and others violate the First Amendment? Actually, it's private companies invoking their own First Amendment right to bar things they don't like. But even Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey called it "a failure." That's also true of Parler's decapitation. Never mind that these actions seem partisan and hypocritical; the bans will continue until morale improves. Democrats may cheer but the precedent is scary—soon they'll be silencing their own. *Vive la guillotine electronique.*

Expect the siren calls for regulation to become deafening—mostly focused on "updating" Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act, the provision that limits social-media companies' liability for things users say. A year ago *Joe Biden* said it should be "revoked, immediately." The law states that except for illegal materials like child pornography, companies can host everything and employ their own community standards to take down what they consider offensive.

This mess was all predicted by a comic strip (really!) in 2004, when only Harvard dorm residents knew about TheFacebook—and Twitter was two years away. John "Gabe" Gabriel—the alter ego of one of the creators of *Penny Arcade*, a web comic—came up with the Greater Internet [Jerkwad] Theory (obscenity deleted). The theory is spelled out on a green chalkboard: "Normal Person + Anonymity + Audience = Total [Jerkwad]" while interpreters note that "normal, well-adjusted people may display psychopathic or antisocial behaviors when given both anonymity and a captive audience on the Internet." It's no longer a theory, is it?

In our new slushy, snowflake-soaked society, some folks are offended by just about anything, and are quick to deploy torches and pitchforks to silence and cancel anything not currently considered politically correct. It's worth reiterating: social media and all its benefits (ask small businesses) wouldn't exist without Section 230. Instead of hiring hundreds of thousands of coders, Facebook and Twitter would instead be giant law firms forever fighting lawsuits.

Still, Facebook ran ads all fall practically begging for regulation. But any attempt to “fix” Section 230 would surely kill it. Legislation would be a bicameral camel—a horse designed by committee—trying to define community standards, hate speech, what “incites” riots, what constitutes “systemic” racism and on and on, with the inevitable loopholes for certain politicians and favored groups.

Lost in the hysteria of Section 230 is the fact that it doesn’t currently stop anyone from suing social media users. But that can be hard since so many are anonymous or almost impossible to identify. Just who is @barronjohn1946? Big Tech has all the money, so it would be easier to sue them—but you can’t.

Twitter tried to quash the unmasking of an anonymous user, @whysprtech, who in 2016 had released forged FBI documents concerning the death of Democratic National Committee staffer Seth Rich. Last fall, courts ruled that Twitter had to release that information when Rich’s brother wanted to sue for defamation.

In many ways, that’s the solution—end anonymity. On Wall Street it’s called “Know your customer”: Citigroup CEO Michael Corbat talks about the bank’s KYC rule all the time. *Goldman Sachs* forgot about KYC when it did deals with the swindlers at 1MDB. Know your customer is mandated to stop money laundering. Maybe it can work for rhetoric laundering and put an end to Gabe’s theory.

Sure, there’s value to spontaneous users speaking freely about everything, but no one really knows how many fake accounts spewing fake news exist. Truth is elusive. So why not impose know-your-customer on social-media companies. Facebook and Twitter don’t want to know their customers simply because it would be expensive. Too bad. Yes, it would be hard and their user counts would drop, maybe halve, but advertisers would rejoice. It might be cheaper than today’s band-aid of hiring tens of thousands of content moderators.

How to do it? Require a credit card, like *Apple* does to use its app store? Maybe. A driver’s license? Passport? A trip to the post office or DMV (yikes!) to be identified? Require showing your voter ID? Oh that’s right, there is no voter ID. Any way you choose, identify posters.

Let’s face it, Twitter can be a cesspool of snark. Of course, that’s what attracts many of us. Will that change? Maybe. But I like a world in which someone can be sued when he posts threatening language. If someone libels you, you can sue him. Post about buying zip ties and invading the Capitol, and the FBI knocks on your door. This would put an immediate damper on today’s worst offenders.

Every social-media company would complain but secretly agree with a know-your-customer mandate. The alternative is mindless legislators fatally rewriting Section 230 and vengeful swamper continuing their gung-ho quest to break up everything in sight.

Write to kessler@wsj.com.

Appeared in the January 25, 2021, print edition.

Senator JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my final minute, I want to revisit net neutrality. I would rather not. I really applaud Chairman Pai and his courage against protests and threats of removing any types of policies that tried to create net neutrality, which I think would have done just the opposite of what net neutrality sounds like it would do. I haven’t seen people being throttled back. I haven’t seen this be an issue. What I have seen is continued investment in the Internet, which is why Chairman Pai instituted those orders. Where do you stand on net neutrality? I am hoping and praying this Administration is going to reraise that issue.

Ms. RAIMONDO. I have been in favor as a Governor and I am, I say generally in favor of policies which create more of a level playing field and more equal access.

Senator JOHNSON. It seems Mr. Chairman has left. Let me just follow up on that. Do you agree with me that it has not been—you know, since Chairman Pai acted, we have not seen a real problem in not having some of these net neutrality rules in place? I mean, where is the problem? Is this a solution—is this a solution looking for a problem?

Ms. RAIMONDO. As I said, I would look forward to working with you on this and to, in my capacity at Commerce and to the extent that there are levers in the Commerce Secretary's Department, to work with you on the issue.

Senator JOHNSON. OK. So I turn it over to Senator Sinema?

Senator CANTWELL. Yes. Senator Sinema, thank you.

**STATEMENT OF HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA,
U.S. SENATOR FROM ARIZONA**

Senator SINEMA. Thank you so much, Madam Chairman, and thanks to Governor Raimondo for joining us today. You know, Arizona is one of the fastest growing states in the Nation and is a leader in creating jobs, economic growth and opportunity for the people of our state. The Department of Commerce's mission is to overcome obstacles to development and create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity. The Department achieves that goal through agencies and bureaus that focus on many important issues like broadband development, the census, and drought information. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues in this committee to develop bipartisan solutions to invest in Arizona and create the economic environment we need to continue to grow and succeed. Governor Raimondo, if you are confirmed for this important role, I look forward to working collaboratively to create good paying jobs and continue sustainable growth for all Arizona communities, from our largest cities to our rural and tribal areas.

My top priority over the last year has been working with local, state, and Federal partners to keep Arizonans healthy and safe from the pandemic. Now, it has put a spotlight on the digital divide in this country, and I encourage the NTIA to play a major role in expanding broadband. As you know, the last COVID relief bill included new opportunities for NTIA, including a \$300 million program to promote broadband expansion to unserved rural areas and a \$1 billion program for tribal broadband. What are your plans for broadband expansion? And can you commit to coordinating closely with rural communities and tribes to ensure that this funding is utilized effectively?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you, Senator. Yes, I will commit to working closely with you, your colleagues, rural communities and tribes, and listening to the rural communities and tribes around their needs and the challenges. Every American deserves access to high quality broadband. And I will use the full resources of NTIA, if confirmed, to lean into that issue and make sure we move quickly. COVID has shown that broadband can save lives, and everyone deserves to have it.

Senator SINEMA. I agree. You know, one of my top issues is increasing domestic manufacturing of semiconductors. In recent years, other countries, including China, have given massive financial incentives to semiconductor manufacturers to build factories offshore. This has shrunk the United States share of the semiconductor industry and domestic manufacturing is not only an economic concern. The Defense Department has identified a secure semiconductor supply chain as a National Security issue. I have been working with a bipartisan group of Senators to advance the CHIPS Act. Last year, we authorized the Commerce Department

grants for semiconductor manufacturing in the Defense Authorization Bill, but we have more work to do. Will you prioritize this issue as Congress works to bring these jobs back to our country?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you. Yes, the semiconductor industry is vital to American economic and National Security. And President Biden has been clear that we will have a whole of Government approach to semiconductors. And I plan to play an active role on his team, as you say, making sure that we have jobs for economic security, but also National Security issues looming large in this area. We need a resilient supply chain to be secure.

Senator SINEMA. Agreed. The accuracy of the 2020 census is very important to my state. Arizona is one of the fastest growing states in the country and we need to be sure the Census Bureau data is accurate. The previous Administration harmed the nonpartisan history of the Census Bureau through attempts to add a last-minute citizenship question and prohibit the inclusion of undocumented persons in apportionment data. Also, the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed the ability of the Census Bureau to engage with Arizonans.

So the Census Bureau will need to be transparent in discussing any shortfalls in the data that were collected due to limited operations. Can you commit to repairing the damage and improving relationships with historically undercounted communities today, ensuring accurate and cost-effective counts in the future?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you. And you brought this up the other day as well. I commit to taking the politics out of Census, relying on expertise, and doing everything I can to rebuild people's trust in the Census. It needs to be accurate.

Senator SINEMA. Thank you. In my last minute, I want to just briefly talk about NOAA. As you are aware, the Southwestern United States continues to face an unprecedented drought, resulting in a wide range of impacts from wildfires to water shortages. In Arizona, we rely on water not only to brush our teeth and shower, but also for our economic security. And we are ready to work with other Western states to ensure we have a healthy water stead and continue to be responsible stewards of our water. We have got to use the best available science to make informed decisions. So we commit to utilizing and strengthening programs such as NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System to help us understand and address the impacts of this drought.

Ms. RAIMONDO. I will commit to working with you on that. I understand how important it is to your state.

Senator SINEMA. Thank you so much, Governor, and thanks for being here today. I appreciate it.

Senator CANTWELL. Senator Scott.

STATEMENT OF HON. RICK SCOTT, U.S. SENATOR FROM FLORIDA

Senator SCOTT. Thank you. Governor, thank you for the call we had the other day. We had the opportunity to talk about some of the issues that Governors deal with. And I think it is positive when you see a Governor come up and serve in an Administration. One of the issues that we both dealt with as Governors is the need for job creation and the need to try to keep the cost of living as low

as we could for families in our state that don't make significant amounts of money.

I got into public service focusing on the fact that I want kids like me who grew up in public housing have the same opportunity to live the dream as everybody else. In—and so what you are going to be doing as Secretary of Commerce, if confirmed, will be very significant to helping people across the country make sure they have the same opportunity I had. In December of last year, you signed a memorandum with Connecticut, Massachusetts in D.C. called the Transportation Climate Initiative, which is going to require suppliers of gas and diesel fuel to buy credits to sell them as early as 2023.

In both of our states, the median income, just a little over \$30,000 a year so how—who is going to pay for this and how is it going to impact the people that in both of our states don't make significant amounts of money? And I don't know if you track to see how much this is going to cost an individual.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you for the question. So, I believe that climate change is probably the greatest threat we face. And also, there is an opportunity to create jobs as we combat climate change. 30 plus percent of emissions come from transportation sector. And so, I allied myself with my fellow Governors to agree to look into the issue. And that is where we are. You know, I support that. And I believe long term it will actually create jobs.

Senator SCOTT. So, I think all of us are very focused on climate change and how we are going to make sure that we deal with that and at the same time, we have got to keep our economy going. So, with what you have agreed to in the transportation climate initiative, how will—who will pay for that and how will a family making—you know, half the families, individuals in your state make less than \$32,000 a year. How will they pay for that? And have you quantified it?

Ms. RAIMONDO. We have not yet. The document I signed, by the way, is bipartisan, Republican and Democratic Governors, was an intention to work together with our legislators to develop a transportation climate initiative. So, it is very early in the process.

Senator SCOTT. OK. Alright. Thank you. The nominee for Transportation Secretary, Pete Buttigieg, last week said he was receptive to increasing the gas tax. And again, this would be something that would impact the poorest families in our country significantly. What is your position on that? And do you think—how would that impact your ability to do your job as Secretary of Commerce?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, so I would defer to Congress to make that decision. Let me say this, I as Governor am deeply in touch with how much increasing bills affect the average American family. Having said that, we do need to meet the climate change challenge and we need funds for improved infrastructure, better roads, safer roads, safer bridges, and which also creates jobs. So, I would look to balance those interests and work as a piece of the President's team.

Senator SCOTT. The part of the Biden Administration's proposal was \$15 minimum wage, and according to the Congressional Budget Office, 3.7 million people are going to lose their jobs as a result of that. And as we all know, as Secretary of Commerce your job

will be to figure out how to help our small businesses, help them prosper because that is where most of our job creation is. So, what is your position with regard to increase in minimum wage and what impact that will have on our small businesses and our families across the country?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, thank you. So, I believe work ought to pay and you shouldn't live in poverty if you work full time. As Governor, I have shepherded through several increases in minimum wage and we have not seen any impacts on unemployment. And so as with all policies related to wages or commerce or competitiveness, I will consult broadly with stakeholders, with industry and take a thoughtful approach. But I know many businesses also support that and believe that work ought to pay.

Senator SCOTT. Thank you, Governor.

Senator CANTWELL. Senator Rosen.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JACKY ROSEN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEVADA**

Senator ROSEN. Thank you, Madam Chair, Ranking Member still, I guess, but thank you, Senator Cantwell. And Governor Raimondo, thank you for being with us today and thank you for your commitment to serving our Nation. I really appreciated our productive meeting. I look forward to learning more about your plans to revive our Nation's economy, to create jobs, and to ensure that every American has access to broadband no matter where they live. Amidst a global pandemic that has devastated our economy, I urge this committee to facilitate a swift confirmation for Governor Raimondo so she can immediately get to work for our country. But I would like to begin by talking a little bit about repealing Solar Terra. The solar industry employs about 7,000 workers in Nevada, the most solar jobs per capita in the entire country. If we are to address the climate crisis and continuing to create those good paying jobs in the energy sector, we must have a Federal policy that promotes the affordable deployment of solar projects.

Unfortunately, the previous Administration imposed costly Section 201 tariffs on imported solar panels and cells. These misguided tariffs have cost us an estimated 62,000 solar jobs across the United States. In October, the Trump Administration doubled down on this failed policy and directed the United States trade representative to increase the tariffs for 2021. The right move for the economy and the environment would be for President Biden to rescind this ill-conceived proclamation before it takes effect on February 7.

Given the extremely small solar manufacturing industry in the U.S. and the fact that nearly 90 percent of solar jobs in the U.S. are non-manufacturing jobs that rely on affordable solar panels, do you support the current tariffs on imported solar panels? And will you work with me to address this pressing issue and of course, time sensitive issue?

Ms. RAIMONDO. So, thank you, Senator. I understand from talking to you and your Governor how important these solar jobs are in your state, and I look forward to learning more about it. Of course, I will work with you. And I understand it is time sensitive and challenging and a lot of jobs are at stake.

Senator ROSEN. I appreciate that. Usually, we have nothing but sunshine in Nevada, but I hear today it is snowing on the Las Vegas Strip. So, but we will have sunshine coming back soon. But speaking of the Las Vegas Strip, I want to talk about reviving our entertainment economy. Because in Nevada while our economy continues to recover from the devastating impact of a pandemic, we are still facing one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. Nearly half a million jobs are part of Nevada's entertainment and tourism ecosystem. Unfortunately, our once vibrant creative arts community is not just struggling to stay afloat.

Performers or support staff, they have seen their work come to virtually a complete halt as venues are unable to open their doors during the pandemic. I know this is happening across the country. Theaters are shuttered and elsewhere. Like I said in the country, film, television, sports events, all of it. All these productions shut down in an abundance of precaution. So, as we work to create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity, what are your plans to specifically help the creative industries stay afloat and get back to work?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, thank you. I hear you about Las Vegas. You mentioned it the other day. My state also depends heavily on tourism and hospitality, so I see it. I expect to play a real leadership role with Brand USA and work with you and the industry and collaborate to find creative ways to get folks traveling again, going out to dinner and the like again. It is important. And of course, I support President Biden fully in his reinvigorated approach to get COVID under control, which gives people confidence to go out and travel.

Senator ROSEN. Thank you. And my last question I think I will have time for is about NIST and the cybersecurity work force. The Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, plays an important role in supporting technological innovations and of course our STEM work force. In particular, and I am like this acronym, the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education, or NICE, is housed within NIST. It focuses on cybersecurity, education, training and workforce development. And according to their NICE jobs current heat map, there are currently over 520,000 cyber job openings in the U.S. So, in the interest of time, I have a few bills out there. Cyber Ready Work Force, Junior ROTC, Cybersecurity Workforce, Framework, we are working on all of this. What are your goals for supporting our cybersecurity work force? Half a million jobs open, probably more to be created. We know we have got lots more needs. Let's get folks into these jobs.

Ms. RAIMONDO. I could not agree more. I will work with you on it. I will prioritize it. I have done that as Governor. A big piece of that puzzle is job training. But I agree there are many jobs available and we ought to help Americans get them.

Senator ROSEN. Well, thank you. I appreciate your willingness to serve, and I yield.

The CHAIRMAN. And thank you, Senator Rosen. Senator Young, are you there?

**STATEMENT OF HON. TODD YOUNG,
U.S. SENATOR FROM INDIANA**

Senator YOUNG. I am, indeed, Chairman. Thank you. Governor, it is so good to be with you again. Enjoyed our conversation the other day, and I will be following up on that. Once again, thank you for your willingness to serve and for appearing before the Committee. We discussed, during our conversation, the overwhelming geographic concentration of venture capital investment in three states. And that concerns me. It is detrimental to the innovation base, especially at a time when the U.S. is going toe to toe with countries like China. So, we need to harness more of that talent across the heartland of America and around all four corners of our country. That is why I coauthored the Endless Frontier Act with Senator Schumer. The bill would bolster U.S. leadership in science and tech innovation by making \$100 billion strategic investment in emerging technologies.

Additionally, the bill will deliver \$10 billion to establish regional tech hubs across the country to launch innovative companies, revive American manufacturing, and create new jobs to reinvigorate our local communities. So, we are talking here about a technology policy for our country. We have got a clear plan to implement one. I would ask you, Governor, do you think the Endless Frontier Act would help expand entrepreneurship and fuel greater innovation through these geographic regions, outside the traditional tech hubs that we have around the country?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you, Senator. I certainly share your concern that capital is concentrated in too few areas. By the way, my state is not one of them. So, I live it and would absolutely work with you to disperse that. We have talked a lot today about how to compete with China and we talked about tariffs and defense. But some of it is offense, which is investing in American innovation and doing that broadly. And so, I would be excited to, you know, work with you on that issue.

Senator YOUNG. It is about offense and we discussed this in our conversation together. I think I use the phrase that United States needs to outgrow, out innovate, and outcompete China. And you agreed with that sentiment. If confirmed, in addition to perhaps the Endless Frontier Act and being supportive of that sort of initiative, are there any other steps that you might take to sort of execute on this mandate of outcompeting the Chinese, just as we outcompeted the Soviet Union?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Yes, well, there are many areas, and I will be brief, but one of the areas of commerce is NIST, which has a huge role to play in standard setting, and I believe America needs to lead in the standard setting, especially as it relates to new technology. I know you care a lot about artificial intelligence and blockchain. And so, I feel that that is one way in particular that we could help Americans to compete and lead and win.

Senator YOUNG. Very good. I have about a minute and a half left. This is sort of how this works. Not a lot of time. But I am going to pivot quickly to supply chain. And there has been a lot of talk about supply chain management and retrenchment of vulnerable supply chains in conjunction with this pandemic. We know that we are vulnerable. Ninety-five percent of surgical masks and 70 per-

cent of respirators were made overseas at the start of this crisis. Pharmaceuticals and medical equipment might be the most visible offshore sectors. As we begin to recover from this crisis, we need to secure these supply chains, and to maintain long-term investments, we have to ensure continuous demand for domestic production.

If that is not ensured, no one is going to stand up a factory to build essential items. This demand can't just be a one-off spike. So, with that said, sometimes the issue is not a lack of total demand, but a matching demand with supply, especially in localized markets spanning across the country. One strategy could be mapping out and exaggerating demand and exploring various incentives to support American companies with moving supply chains. If confirmed, how do you plan to facilitate reshoring domestic supply chains?

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you. First, I will say it will be a priority because it will help shore up our National Security and economic security, and the technical resources of the Commerce Department are second to none in figuring out the complexities of how to execute on that.

Senator YOUNG. Well, very good. I will—I know our time has expired, so I will look forward to working with you on that important issue, very important to the most manufacturing intensive state in the country, which is the state of Indiana. Thank you.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Senator Young. And that concludes our questioning. Governor Raimondo, over the course of 2 hours and 37 minutes, you have been most patient and most talented in answering our questions. And I think you have learned a good bit about this committee during the process. I do not believe you will be serving as Governor of the state of Rhode Island for very much longer. And I wish you well. Look forward to working with you. Senator Cantwell, do you have anything?

If not, the hearing record will remain open until the end of this day. Senators are asked to submit any questions for the record by the close of business today, Tuesday, January 26, 2021. The Committee asks witnesses that upon—the witness, that upon receipt of any question for the record, you submit your written answers to the Committee as soon as possible, but no later than the close of business on Monday, February 1, 2021. This hearing is now concluded, and once again, we thank Governor Raimondo.

Ms. RAIMONDO. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 12:37 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.] 6601

A P P E N D I X



January 21, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
425 Hart Senate Office Building - United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building - United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write in full support of the nomination of Governor Gina M. Raimondo to be our next United States Secretary of Commerce. Having worked directly with Governor Raimondo to develop workforce and economic development programs, I know first-hand her insatiable passion and innovation, which I know she will bring to the United States Commerce Department.

The Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance (SENEAIA) is a membership organization made up of large, midsize and small businesses who support the development and production of technology to support our nation's warfighters. SENEAIA focuses on workforce and economic development for our membership and Governor Raimondo has positively changed the paradigm in both areas. She came to us to learn about what we do and how we do it. Then as an informed partner she worked with us to develop programs like Real Jobs RI, P-TECH and customized experiential learning opportunities that create a ready-now workforce for our members who in turn sustain and grow in Rhode Island and southeastern New England. Governor Raimondo has always been accessible, responsive and innovative.

Governor Raimondo is the right person at the right time to drive our economic recovery and support our business leaders throughout the United States during these unprecedented times. I encourage you to join me in supporting our economic recovery by selecting Governor Raimondo to lead the United States Department of Commerce.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. DelGiudice".

Timothy J. DelGiudice, Chairman
SENEAIA Board of Directors

CC: Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Two Corporate Place, Suite 203 - Middletown, RI 02842 U.S.A. | www.SENEDIA.org





STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Governor Tim Walz
Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

January 22, 2021

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
425 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I am writing today in support of the nomination of Governor Gina Raimondo as United States Secretary of Commerce. Throughout her career in public service, Governor Raimondo has established a proven record of job creation and workforce development. With her focus on revitalizing American manufacturing, and her commitment to embracing new technology and innovation to build a stronger and more resilient economy, I am confident that Governor Raimondo is the right person to lead the United States Department of Commerce at this critical time.

During her tenure as Governor of Rhode Island, Gina Raimondo has overseen unprecedented success in job creation, achieving a record number of jobs and the lowest unemployment in the state in 30 years. She has created programs to bring dozens of major employers to her state, and her administration has supported the growth of hundreds of small businesses, including by streamlining regulations in commonsense ways. Governor Raimondo made key investments in economic progress with an eye toward future growth industries, attracting companies in fields like design, biotech, and IT. And she accomplished that growth while keeping workers at the forefront – implementing protections for low-wage workers, raising the minimum wage, and rethinking job training. Her Rhode Island Promise scholarship program makes it more affordable for Rhode Islanders to pursue a postsecondary credential or degree, opening doors to the workforce.

Governor Raimondo and I have faced similar economic challenges in our states due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this unprecedented crisis, businesses across the country are making necessary sacrifices to save lives, and millions of Americans are facing unemployment. Recognizing the early economic effects of COVID-19, Governor Raimondo created the Back to Work RI program to bring businesses and workers together and provide pathways to a new career for thousands who lost their jobs due to the pandemic. She has led her state to address this crisis on many fronts, and she is the right person to lead the United States Department of Commerce – she will lead to provide opportunity to millions of Americans who have lost their jobs during this pandemic, and she will secure America's position as the strongest and most forward-looking economy in the world.

As the country starts the journey to rebuild our economy in a way that leaves no one behind, it is more important than ever to have an experienced, principled, and proven leader as Secretary of Commerce. I know Governor Gina Raimondo is that leader. I enthusiastically endorse her nomination, and I encourage you to vote in support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Walz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Walz
Governor

CC: Members of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation



Rhode Island Manufacturers Association
The Economic Engine for Rhode Island

01/25/2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
425 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Governor Gina Raimondo to be United States Secretary of Commerce. The manufacturing industry in Rhode Island is home to over 1,600 manufacturers employing more than 40,000 individuals and as the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Manufacturer's Association, I have been proud to partner with the Governor as she has worked to rebuild and reinvent the manufacturing industry. Governor Raimondo launched the Rhode Island manufacturing initiative which contained a package of workforce training and economic development programs aimed specifically to rebuild Rhode Island's manufacturing industry for the 21st century creating opportunities for hard-working middle-class families. This successful initiative included programs to assist manufacturers to purchase new equipment, fund R&D activities to create new product lines and patents and provide millions of dollars to enhance manufacturing programs at our career and technical high school, Davies. I know that as US Commerce Secretary she will be laser focused on this task for our country.

Because of the strong partnership that Governor Raimondo has forged with the manufacturing community here in Rhode Island we were able to quickly spring into action when the COVID pandemic hit our state. We are proud that Rhode Island was one of the only states in the country to never shut down the manufacturing sector during the COVID pandemic. In fact, our manufacturer's quickly pivoted from their normal lines of business to making life saving PPE, swabs and sanitizer products.

As we face a new call to rebuild in a way that leaves no one behind, that provides opportunity to millions who have lost their jobs, and that secures America's position as the strongest and most forward-looking economy in the world, I know Governor Raimondo's experience prepares her well for this important post. I enthusiastically endorse her nomination, and I encourage you to vote in support of her.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

David M. Chenevert
Executive Director of Rhode Island Manufacturers Association

Cc: Members of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

2 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI 02917

Phone: (401) 751-0160

Email: rma@rimfgri.com Web: www.rimanufacturers.com



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

January 25, 2021

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
425 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Governor Gina Raimondo as United States Secretary of Commerce. Massachusetts and Rhode Island share a border, a coast, a transportation corridor and an economy and despite not sharing a political party, Governor Raimondo and I developed a strong working relationship over the last six years. Together, we battled a pandemic, formed a first in the nation initiative to reduce regional carbon emissions and collaborated on workforce development. We also learned from one another and I have come to know her as honest, straight forward and always ready to work together to improve the lives of our constituents.

Governor Raimondo's record speaks for itself. Rhode Island got to work during her administration, and the state saw tremendous job growth thanks to several initiatives she developed and worked hard to implement. New, high paying jobs in IT and biotech flourished as a result. It was not easy. Her team launched quality, accessible job training and expanded existing industries while anticipating future growth opportunities. Our country will need that experience now more than ever leading the Commerce Department as we grapple with the job losses from the pandemic.

Governor Raimondo and I are not members of the same political party and we did not know one another before we each took office. Even as governors in neighboring states, we were sometimes competing with each other. One would think these differences would not lead to much interstate collaboration but instead, we established a new level of collaboration that has not previously existed between our states. Working with Governor Raimondo was easy because she always put the best interest of Rhode Island first and possesses a longer view to see that success begets success – that if Massachusetts or Rhode Island succeeds so will its neighbors. Serving in the Cabinet of a U.S. President requires foresight and a commitment to put the best interest of all Americans above all else. I know she has these qualities and is the best candidate for this important position.

Public officials at all levels are confronting new and yet to be determined economic landscapes as the nation emerges from the pandemic downturn. I believe Governor Raimondo's collaborative spirit, commitment to good ideas, and her passion to see them through will serve the nation well as Commerce Secretary. I endorse her nomination and am confident in her fit for this important position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles Baker".

Charles D. Baker, Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

CC: Members of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION®

January 25, 2021

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the U.S. Travel Association, a national nonprofit representing all aspects of America's travel and tourism industry, I would like to express our industry's strong support for Governor Gina Raimondo to be confirmed as Secretary of Commerce and respectfully urge the Committee to expedite its consideration of her nomination. U.S. Travel believes the quicker President Biden's economic team is in place, including Secretary-designee Raimondo, the quicker we can move on to economic recovery.

The travel and tourism industry is one of the largest sectors of the economy, but has seen an unprecedented decline due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, the travel industry generated \$1.1 trillion in travel industry spending and supported 15.8 million American jobs. However, the U.S. lost a staggering \$510 billion in travel spending and 4.5 million travel-supported jobs last year. Since the start of the pandemic, approximately 42% of all jobs lost nationwide are attributable to declines in direct travel employment, with the industry losing 50% of its workforce by the end of 2020.

Governor Raimondo understands the importance of travel and tourism to the U.S. economy and the role of small businesses in fueling a nationwide economic recovery. Early in her tenure as Rhode Island's governor, she made substantial investments in a tourism marketing campaign for the state, demonstrating a deep appreciation for the return-on-investment of travel promotion programs. Governor Raimondo also emphasized assistance for leisure and hospitality businesses as part of her economic response to the pandemic, which is something our industry aims to see repeated at the federal level.

Currently, it is expected that the travel industry will take five years to recover from the economic pain of the public health crisis. It is our hope that a timely confirmation of Secretary-designee Raimondo will allow the new administration to begin the important work of developing a recovery strategy that includes measures to restart domestic and international travel, accelerate rehiring and economic recovery, help the U.S. regain its place as the top destination in the world, and shorten the recovery period. Specifically, we urge the administration and Congress to work together to support the following measures:

1. **Establish a National Travel and Tourism Strategy to restore domestic and international travel, and set a goal of welcoming 116 million annual international visitors to the U.S. by 2028.** To achieve this, Congress and the administration should support the bipartisan Visit America Act (S. 3831 and H.R. 8480 from the 116th Congress). The Visit America Act creates a new Assistant Secretary for Travel and Tourism within the Department of Commerce that is tasked with:
 - o Setting national goals and objectives for growing international visitation every four years;

- Leading interagency development of strategies to meet travel goals, such as necessary changes to visa processing and customs and entry procedures;
 - Coordinating with stakeholders to increase the competitiveness of U.S. travel exports, such as large international trade shows and sporting events; and
 - Developing a plan for the travel industry's recovery from COVID-19 and develop strategies to avoid future threats.
2. **Support and protect Brand USA, the United States' destination marketing organization.** Brand USA will play a central role in driving economic recovery by sending a message to the world that the U.S. has safely reopened for business, promoting visitation to rural and urban destination across the U.S. and generating incremental demand for inbound travel. Brand USA's ability to continue its important work will be necessary to the travel industry's recovery and we urge its continued support and protection.
 3. **Support making travel promotion an eligible use for Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants and support \$2.25 billion in EAA grants for travel promotion in a future COVID-19 recovery bill.** When the time is right, destination marketing organizations will play a central role in getting the travel industry back on its feet by promoting safe and healthy travel demand. Unfortunately, the Economic Adjustment Assistance grants, which are the key disaster recovery tools under EDA, are not eligible to be used for travel promotion.
 4. **Actively facilitate large group tours, meetings, events and business travel to the U.S. through inter-agency coordination, training and the U.S. Commercial Service.** Prior to the pandemic, travel and tourism was the second largest U.S. industry export and the largest services export. Despite its size and importance to trade, these large events do not typically receive the same level of support that other exports receive through services like trade promotion, statistical intelligence and inter-agency coordination.

To help address this issue, the U.S. Commercial Service should develop a program to identify, promote, and facilitate bids for large group international travel, such as tours, sporting events, meeting, exhibitions, and conferences.

The United States is in the depths of an unprecedented economic crisis. Much work must be done to help rebuild our economy and the millions of jobs lost during the pandemic. Confirming a Commerce Secretary expeditiously, particular one with impeccable credentials, is imperative. As such, we strongly encourage the Committee to promptly and favorably report Gina Raimondo's nomination to the full Senate without delay.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to meet the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,



Roger J. Dow
President and CEO
U.S. Travel Association



January 25, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
Senate Commerce, Science and
Transportation Committee
512 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce, Science and
Transportation Committee
420A Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

On behalf of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR), we would like to express our strong support for the nomination of Governor Gina Raimondo to lead the Department of Commerce. We are hopeful that Governor Raimondo can be confirmed in a timely manner to ensure the Department can move forward with strong leadership early in the new administration.

ORR is the nation's leading coalition of outdoor recreation trade associations – made up of 33 national trade associations — as well as other nonprofit organizations and business entities — serving more than 110,000 businesses. According to the most recent data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis released last year, the recreation industry generated \$788 billion in output, accounted for 2.1 percent of GDP, supported 5.2 million jobs and was growing faster than the economy as a whole in every indicator.

The Department of Commerce plays a crucial role in furthering the growth of the outdoor recreation industry. Through the Bureau of Economic Analysis, it is responsible for evaluating the outdoor recreation economy via the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account. This analysis has been an important indicator of the strength of the outdoor recreation industry and the impact that outdoor recreation has on jobs and the economy. We are looking forward to working with Governor Raimondo to continue this important work going forward.

Additionally, we look forward to working with the Department on issues related to international trade and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Department's International Trade Commission provides critical data, analysis, and input to the

U.S. Trade Representative regarding Section 232 and Section 301 tariff issues. Tariffs imposed under the prior Administration have impacted recreational products including powersports, marine manufacturers, safety gear, recreation clothing, and stymied export growth due to retaliatory counter-measures imposed by other countries on our American exports. This, all at a time the global pandemic has greatly disrupted supply chains.

Lastly, the Department's broad oversight of federal fisheries has significant impacts on the recreational community, under the guidance of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Governor Raimondo has been a strong advocate for the outdoors. Throughout her time as Governor, she declared every June Great Outdoors Month in Rhode Island and hosted events in parks across the state in celebration. We strongly support Governor Raimondo's nomination to serve as Secretary of Commerce and look forward to working with her and her team on the many important issues facing the outdoor recreation industry.

Sincerely,

America Outdoors Association
 American Horse Council
 American Trails
 Archery Trade Association
 Association of Marina Industries
 Boat Owners Association of the United States
 CHM Government Services
 Diving Equipment & Marketing Association
 International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
 Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
 Motorcycle Industry Council
 National Forest Recreation Association
 National Marine Manufacturers Association
 National Park Hospitality Association
 Outdoor Industry Association
 PeopleForBikes
 Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
 RV Dealers Association
 RV Industry Association
 Snowsports Industries America
 Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
 Specialty Equipment Market Association
 Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
 Sports & Fitness Industry Association



Washington, DC Office
1300 I Street NW
Suite 520 West
Washington, DC 20005-3314
T: 202.898.9064

aem.org
 aem@aem.org
 Toll free: 866.236.0442

January 26, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chairman
The Honorable Roger Wicker, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

On behalf of the U.S. equipment manufacturing industry and the companies that make up the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, we respectfully urge the confirmation of the Honorable Gina Raimondo to serve as United States Secretary of Commerce.

Equipment manufacturers are proud to support 2.8 million family-sustaining jobs – one in eight manufacturing jobs in the United States – that contribute \$288 billion to the nation's GDP and serve as a key driver of the American economy.

Governor Raimondo's distinguished career as the 75th Governor of Rhode Island, successful businesswoman, and strong advocate for government-industry collaboration will serve her well as she leads the Department of Commerce during America's economic recovery. As a strong supporter of the manufacturing sector, she understands the policies that will improve equipment manufacturers' competitiveness and ability to reach new customers abroad to create more American jobs and greater prosperity for our nation. We are confident that Governor Raimondo will provide the leadership needed to grow the economy, strengthen our industry, and improve the lives of all Americans.

Please feel free to call on us to expand upon our rationale for supporting the nomination of Governor Raimondo. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Dennis Slater
President
Association of Equipment Manufacturers

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. MARIA CANTWELL TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Digital Trade. Digital trade and the free flow of information across borders is vitally important to the more than 5,000 technology companies in Washington state and our state's more than \$2.8 billion digital export economy. Nationally, U.S. digital exports were worth more than half a trillion dollars in 2019, an increase of more than 50 percent over the past decade. In Washington state, software industry jobs have increased by approximately one-third since 2016, and now account for around half a million jobs in my state. Unfortunately, digital trade barriers and restrictions are proliferating in many countries, which could undermine our Nation's economic recovery and threaten key trade relationships, including the \$1.1 trillion trade relationship between the U.S. and Europe.

Question 1. If confirmed, will you prioritize digital trade issues and the continued free flow of digital goods and information across borders?

Answer. For U.S. companies to compete, they need the ability to—among other things—access networks, transfer data, and use secure data centers of their choice. If confirmed, I will pursue all available avenues to ensuring data flows and cross-border digital trade, whether that is through trade agreements, the World Trade Organization, expansion of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Cross Border Privacy Rules System, or enhancement of the EU–U.S. Privacy Shield Framework.

Question 2. What will you do to ensure that U.S. companies of all sizes can compete on a level playing field and have access to open digital markets in other countries?

Answer. Leveling the playing field through robust digital trade commitments is necessary to expanding trade in goods and services across all industries. Given the global economy's dependence on the internet, market-opening commitments are a cornerstone of real economic wins for U.S. industry. If confirmed, I will ensure that the full expertise of the Department of Commerce is brought to bear on behalf of U.S. companies that leverage the digital economy to provide innovative services, deliver goods, and reduce costs and increase efficiency in their own operations.

Softwood Lumber. The health of the U.S. lumber industry is essential to jobs in Washington state and across the country. It supports the economy by producing lumber and by supplying the U.S. housing market for local communities. However, enforcement must remain a priority. In 2019, nearly half of all antidumping and countervailing duties collected by the U.S. came from Canadian lumber imports. It is vital that we continue to fully enforce U.S. trade laws.

Question 3. Will you ensure a level playing field for the U.S. lumber industry by fully enforcing U.S. trade laws against unfairly traded Canadian lumber imports?

Answer. I understand the importance of the Antidumping and Countervailing Duties (AD/CVD) orders on imports of softwood lumber from Canada on the U.S. lumber industry. If I am confirmed, the Department of Commerce will continue to vigorously enforce U.S. trade laws, including the AD/CVD orders on imports of softwood lumber from Canada, to ensure that the American lumber industry, and all U.S. workers, farmers and businesses are able to compete on a level playing field and are not harmed by unfair imports from Canada, or any other U.S. trading partner.

Stakeholder Engagement in Ocean Conservation. The Biden Administration has placed an emphasis on “building back better,” restoring our economy but doing so in a way that is equitable and just, and by addressing climate change. Meeting all three of these goals is going to require the tools, resources, and expertise from across government agencies, including the Department of Commerce and NOAA. The United States has a particularly strong blue economy, with ocean goods and services contributing over \$373 billion to the Nation's GDP and supporting over 2.3 million jobs in 2018.

Question 4. Protecting rural jobs that depend on sustainable fisheries is a priority. What role do you see for NOAA in the design and implementation of a potential 30x30 strategy in the U.S. EEZ?

Answer. Creating and promoting job growth is important to me. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on ensuring that jobs related to sustainable fisheries are protected. On January 27, 2021, President Biden issued an Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. Sec. 216 of this Executive Order calls for the Secretaries of Interior, Commerce and the Council of Environmental Quality, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a report within 90 days of its issuance on the steps to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of land and water. The Executive Order calls on Federal agencies

to work with the “States, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other stakeholders.”

Question 5. How will you work to ensure that fishermen and fishing communities are included in the consideration of a potential 30x30 proposal?

Answer. As noted above, on January 27, 2021, President Biden released an Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. Section 216 (c) specifically calls on the Secretary of Commerce, through NOAA, to work in the first 60 days to collect input from fishermen, regional ocean councils, scientists and fishery management council how to make fisheries and protected resources more resilient to climate change. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Question 6. What opportunities do you see to harness the 30x30 goal to increase equitable access to these protected areas and bolster coastal economies where fisheries are managed based on science?

Answer. As the Governor of a coastal state, I recognize the importance of coastal communities, and the need to ensure equal access to marine resources so that all communities can benefit. If confirmed, I will work with NOAA, other Federal agencies and stakeholders to implement the Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, including in increasing equitable access and bolstering coastal communities.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. AMY KLOBUCHAR TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Broadband. I am leading legislation to invest \$100 billion in broadband infrastructure to close the digital divide once and for all. My bill also establishes an Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth at the Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration to help ensure people in every community have the tools, support, and technology they need to take advantage of Internet access.

Question 1. President Biden has identified investment in infrastructure, including broadband infrastructure, as a top priority for his administration. What are your plans to help expand broadband access as the Secretary of Commerce?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with NTIA, which is currently in the process of standing up the Office of Connectivity and Growth, to amplify the work of NTIA's BroadbandUSA. Through its BroadbandUSA work, NTIA serves local, state, and tribal governments, industry and non-profits seeking to expand broadband connectivity and promote digital inclusion by providing solution-neutral technical assistance and convening regional workshops that bring local stakeholders together. NTIA also leverages its State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN) which includes 50 states and three territories.

Question 2. What are your plans to promote digital equity and inclusion, and will you work with me to help address this need?

Answer. As I stated in my hearing testimony, broadband access is not a luxury; it's a necessity, providing children access to their classes, the ill and infirm access via telehealth to their doctor, and enabling consumers to sign up for the COVID vaccine. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that the Department brings the full weight of its resources to advancing digital equity and inclusion by, for example, utilizing NTIA's Digital Inclusion Leaders Network (DILN)—a group of state and local government leaders working to bridge the digital divide—to serve as a critical resource for leveraging knowledge and best practices. In addition, NTIA will rely on data from over 20 years of its Internet Use Survey data to inform policy approaches to closing the digital divide.

Steel Dumping. Iron ore mining has been a way of life for families in northern Minnesota, but illegal practices such as steel dumping unfairly harm our workers. I have long called for tough actions to address Chinese Steel dumping because our workers deserve to know everyone is playing by the same rules.

Question 3. What should Congress do to best work with the new Administration to stand up to unfair trade practices?

Answer. If confirmed as the Secretary of Commerce, I look forward to working with Congress on addressing unfairly traded imports from China and other trading partners that distort the market. If confirmed, it is my intention that the Department of Commerce will continue to rigorously enforce U.S. trade laws, including the Antidumping and Countervailing Duties (AD/CVD) laws, to help ensure a level play-

ing field—not only for the critical U.S. steel sector, but comprehensively for U.S. workers, farmers, and other businesses injured by unfair trade.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. RICHARD BLUMENTHAL TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

The North Atlantic right whale. We share a mutual understanding that commercial and recreational fishing and shipping contributes significantly to our Nation's economy, but the contributions of marine species—like the North Atlantic right whale—who inhabit our Federal waters often take a backseat to industry, particularly in the previous administration. These species make countless contributions through tourism, ecosystem services, and carbon capture. Unfortunately, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the world's most endangered large whale species, with only about 400 whales remaining.

Question 1. If confirmed, how will you guide the agency to not only focus on the management of sustainable fisheries and other marine industries but to encourage the coexistence of these activities with marine mammal species, such as the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale, which is facing extinction due to climate change, entanglement in fishing gear, vessel strikes and outdated management policies?

Answer. I recognize the importance of shipping and fishing to the Nation's economy and I appreciate the ecological, cultural, and economic importance of protected marine mammals such as the North Atlantic right whale. If confirmed, I would welcome opportunities to learn more about NOAA's efforts to partner with the fishing community, the shipping industry, and other interested stakeholders to protect, conserve, and recover North Atlantic right whales and their habitats and to work with you and your constituents on this issue.

The 2020 Census. In March 2020, as the 2020 Census was fully underway, the COVID pandemic impacted the process, causing the Census Bureau to suspend field operations for over a month. Initially, former Secretary Ross and Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham announced that they would be extending the deadline for self-response and field data collection and asked Congress to extend the statutory deadlines for delivery of apportionment and redistricting data by 120 days. However, in August, the Census Bureau inexplicably reversed course, shortened the enumeration period, and decided to move forward with the original statutory deadlines for apportionment and redistricting data, raising serious concerns that they would not have adequate time to complete a full, fair, and accurate 2020 census. Further, last month, the Government Accountability Office testified before a House Oversight and Reform Committee hearing expressing concern about the risks to 2020 census data quality caused by COVID-19 and related developments.

Question 2. If confirmed, will you commit to protecting the integrity of the 2020 Census?

Answer. Yes.

Question 3. If confirmed, will you commit to working with the Commerce Committee to ensure that the Census Bureau has all necessary resources to ensure a full, fair, and accurate count is represented?

Answer. Yes.

Question 4. In May 2020, a career Census Bureau staffer expressed concern that the Census would not be able to meet its statutory deadlines. If confirmed, will you remain transparent and open in your communication with the Committee to ensure that they Census Bureau is meeting its constitutional and statutory responsibilities?

Answer. Yes.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTION SUBMITTED BY HON. EDWARD MARKEY TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Restricting the 3D Printing of Guns. In January 2020, the Commerce and State Departments finalized rules that shift jurisdiction over small arms exports—including technical data, such as files for the 3D printing of guns—from State to Commerce. A coalition of state attorneys general obtained an injunction that maintains State Department oversight over technical data. But if a pending court decision vacates that injunction, the Commerce Department will then have jurisdiction over the posting of files for the 3D printing of guns.

Question. What actions would you like to see the Commerce Department take to ensure that the posting and export of files for the 3D printing of guns continues to be restricted?

Answer. If the pending court decision vacates the injunction, if confirmed, I will work with the White House and members of Congress, including your office, to discuss ways of implementing meaningful oversight similar to State Department oversight that occurred before the rule change.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. GARY PETERS TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Question 1. For Michiganders, the Great Lakes are not just a precious environmental treasure, they're an economic driver, and they are literally part of our DNA. I enjoyed our discussion of NOAA's beautiful Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Michigan is also the proud home of the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, several weather forecasting stations, and other important NOAA resources that help support the communities and business throughout the region. If confirmed as Secretary, will you commit to working with me to support and grow NOAA's capacity to provide services within the Great Lakes?

Answer. I recognize the importance of the Great Lakes to our economy and I know that NOAA provides data, tools, and services that support communities surrounding the Great Lakes, just as they do in Rhode Island. If confirmed, I would look forward to learning more about NOAA's work in the Great Lakes region and working with you to support the services they provide to you and your constituents.

Question 2. The President announced yesterday a new executive order directed across the entire Federal government to ensure that when taxpayer dollars are used, they are not used to buy foreign goods but rather are supporting domestic manufacturers and domestic iron and steel. I was part of a bipartisan group of Senators that introduced the *Build America, Buy America Act* (led by Senators Brown and Braun) in the last Congress, which called on many of the items in the President's executive order. If confirmed as Secretary, will you commit to working with me and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee—where I will serve as chairman—to help make permanent these provisions to strengthen Buy America requirements that create jobs and support our domestic manufacturing base?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I will support efforts to help make permanent provisions to strengthen Buy America requirements where tax dollars are spent buying U.S. made goods. As you note, President Biden has made clear his support for Buy America provisions through the issuance of Executive Order 14005. Within the Department of Commerce, the Economic Development Administration has a long history of supporting Buy America requirements in its infrastructure grants.

Question 3. KLA, one of the major US-based semiconductor equipment manufacturers is in the process of opening a second U.S. headquarters in Michigan, creating over 600 high-tech jobs in the Midwest. One challenge semiconductor manufacturers like KLA face has been export restrictions that make it difficult to compete with competitors in Korea, Japan, and Europe. I support efforts to be tough on China so I hope we can work together to strengthen the restrictions on China while ensuring our companies can compete globally. Will you commit to working with me on this?

Answer. If confirmed as Secretary of Commerce, I will commit to working with you on this issue. I will ensure that the Department conducts a full analysis of any changes in export control requirements before implementation.

Question 4. The Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, where I am the incoming Chairman, has jurisdiction over the Census Bureau. Will you commit to working with the Committee and with me to return the Census Bureau to the hands of experts and de-politicize it; Finish the 2020 Census as accurately as possible; Begin preparing for a more inclusive 2030 Census; and continue the critical surveys the Bureau conducts every year?

Answer. Yes.

Question 5. Michigan has been ranked the 2nd best state for aerospace manufacturing. The University of Michigan has one of the best space and space-related engineering programs in the country, which has helped pioneer the development of small satellites that are rapidly being deployed in outer space. I am joining Senator Wicker in Coauthoring the SPACE Act, which would authorize the Office of Commercial Space within the Department of Commerce. I have also been in touch with Commerce Department staff about the development of a space commodities ex-

change—something the Space Force has been interested in as well—to help provide certainty to financial markets backing new commercial space endeavors, as well as to our military and civilian space activities. Will you have staff look into this issue and provide timely feedback on the merits of developing a space commodities exchange from the perspective of the Office of Space Commerce?

Answer. Thank you for your support of NOAA's Office of Space Commerce. If confirmed, I will work with NOAA to look into the issue of a space commodities exchange and the merits of developing such an exchange.

Question 6. Space Weather has the potential to impact infrastructure on Earth and severely disrupt the economy. The insurance industry has cited estimates of a catastrophic space weather event as high as 10 percent in the next 10 years. An estimate by Lloyds of London found that a worst-case scenario space weather event could cost up to \$2.6 trillion. Impacts include outages or blackouts of electric utilities, disrupting GPS and communication networks, and forcing airlines to reroute air traffic. NOAA operates a number of space weather instruments. I authored the bipartisan PROSWIFT Act, which tasks NOAA with coordinating across Federal agencies to help improve our understanding of and mitigate this threat. At the appropriate time in the future, will you please provide an update on the implementation of this law?

Answer. Thank you for your support of NOAA and its space weather mission. If confirmed, I will work with NOAA to provide you an update on the Department's implementation of the PROSWIFT Act.

Question 7. The COVID 19 pandemic has made it even clearer that broadband deployment is necessary to ensure the success of all American both in urban and rural areas. The President has called for major investments in broadband infrastructure. Last Congress, I introduced the Broadband Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act which establishes a financing program to make available loans, loan guarantees, and lines of credit for the construction and deployment of broadband infrastructure at NTIA. If confirmed as Secretary, will you commit to working with me and the Committee to accelerate broadband infrastructure deployment?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I will work to ensure that the Department will focus on bringing all of its resources to bear to accelerate broadband infrastructure deployment. Commerce's NTIA is uniquely qualified to help in expanding both broadband infrastructure to areas of unmet need as well as supporting communities with their digital equity and inclusion needs.

Question 8. In the last Congress, I joined a bipartisan group of senators pushing for a massive investment in scientific research and technology development—the Endless Frontiers Act. I know you've commented on the need to "Go big" as we try to build our way back out of the pandemic. Can you comment on the importance of investing in basic research like this?

Answer. Basic scientific research is imperative to set the long-term groundwork for technology development and later commercial application. President Biden has charged the Office of Science and Technology Policy to examine how we as a nation support research and development to ensure that the U.S. remains competitive globally in key areas of technology (A.I., quantum, communications, etc.). With bureaus like NIST having a key role to play in many of the emerging technology areas identified in the Endless Frontier Act, if confirmed, I look forward to working with the White House and Congress to ensure that our programs are positioned to support the advanced research necessary to fight the pandemic, ensure our competitive position, combat climate change, and build back our economy.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTION SUBMITTED BY HON. TAMMY BALDWIN TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Question. The Economic Census is intended to serve "as the foundation for the measurement of U.S. businesses and their economic impact." One in three Americans is a member-owner of at least one cooperative business, and to capture the economic impact of cooperatives, the Census Bureau rightfully included a question on the 2017 survey asking respondents if the business identifies as a cooperative. Unfortunately, the Bureau has not published any data on these responses, nor made the data available to cooperative researchers and economists. Will you commit to releasing Economic Census data on cooperatives and ensure that the Economic Census continues to measure the economic impact of cooperative businesses in future surveys?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and the Census Bureau to ensure cooperative businesses are integrated into future surveys.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Question 1. As part of the 2021 NDAA, Congress authorized a National Semiconductor Technology Center (NSTC) housed within the U.S. Department of Commerce, with the goal of furthering research and development into this crucial technology and strengthening our domestic supply. If confirmed, how will you prioritize funding for research in this and other critical technologies, and do you agree that the Department should solicit further funding for research and development of critical technologies like semiconductors?

Answer. Cutting-edge semiconductor technology is crucial to both U.S. national and economic security. If confirmed, I will make every effort to prioritize R&D that can help address the advancement of semiconductor technology, overcome barriers to its manufacture and security, including models like the NSTC that bring together stakeholders from across government and industry. I look forward to working with Congress and the White House on ways to secure further funding for the important efforts laid out in the NDAA.

Question 2. From a global competitiveness standpoint, how vital is it that the U.S. grow its domestic manufacturing base in technologies like semiconductors? And what are your plans to implement and promote the new semiconductor program at the Department of Commerce that Congress authorized with the FY 2021 NDAA?

Answer. A vibrant domestic semiconductor manufacturing capability is an important component of the overall competitive position of the U.S. If confirmed, I plan to work diligently to coordinate efforts between Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Commerce to strengthen the U.S. semiconductor industry. I look forward to working with Congress on appropriations to support the efforts outlined in the NDAA.

Question 3. Within the Department of Commerce, what position serves as the current point person for the Secretary in evaluating the breadth of the Department's response to trade enforcement and anti-competitiveness concerns? And how does that individual ensure that small businesses—especially those without a trade association or lobbyists—are able to quickly and easily flag concerns about potentially unfair trade practices so that the Department may analyze the situation and respond swiftly?

Answer. I believe in leveling the playing field for small businesses when it comes to trade. If confirmed, I look forward to working to ensure all U.S. companies, including small and medium-sized companies, benefit from our trade agreements.

It is my understanding that Commerce offers a number of tools to engage with the public to ensure compliance with trade agreements. It maintains a hotline (202-482-1191) and website (<https://tcc.export.gov>) to report complaints. The ITA website (<https://www.trade.gov/trade-agreements-compliance>) includes videos and infographics on trade barriers so companies can quickly self-assess if they are facing a trade barrier as the result of foreign government non-compliance. Finally, compliance officers work closely with more than 100 U.S. Export Assistance Centers that assist small and medium-sized exporters located throughout the United States.

In addition, The Department of Commerce provides counseling on the remedies available under the Antidumping and Countervailing Duties (AD/CVD) laws through its AD/CVD petition counseling office to ensure that all U.S. companies, including small and medium-sized companies, understand and have access to the applicable laws. The office can be reached through a hotline (202-482-1255) and dedicated e-mail address (petition.counseling@trade.gov). Additional information can also be found through the petition counseling website at <https://www.trade.gov/ec-petition-counseling>.

Question 4. In confirmed, how would you survey and analyze the current policies and procedures within the Economic Development Administration to ensure that it is fully combatting racial and economic justice as part of its mission?

Answer. EDA's mission to empower distressed communities through revitalization and diversification of local economies is consistent with the promotion of racial and economic justice. My understanding is that EDA looks forward to working with the Administration pursuant to President Biden's Executive Order 13985 to identify and continue to embed equitable principles and approaches across the bureau. Additionally, EDA will review its policies and actions to ensure they do not create barriers to equal participation by eligible institutions seeking grants from EDA.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Semiconductor Manufacturing Grants. As we discussed at your hearing, semiconductor manufacturers play a crucial role in our economic and national security. The 2021 defense authorization law included important provisions to incentivize domestic semiconductor manufacturing and reverse the decline in American semiconductor manufacturing jobs.

Question 1. Will you commit to depoliticize the grant process and to establish a procedure that reviews applications and distributes grants based on the benefits to domestic semiconductor manufacturing and not based on politics or the location of the project?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that DOC grants processes are not politicized and that they utilize procedures that are fair, competitive, transparent, and oriented to benefit domestic semiconductor manufacturing.

Semiconductor Research. In addition to the grants to expand domestic manufacturing of semiconductors, the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act calls on the Department to establish a National Semiconductor Technology Center (NSTC). The NSTC is intended to conduct research, development and prototyping to maintain U.S. leadership in this critical technology.

Question 2. What role do you envision your Department playing in funding research in critical technologies, such as semiconductors?

Answer. NIST currently has a number of research efforts directly aligned with the needs of the semiconductor industry and other critical technology areas, such as artificial intelligence, quantum science, and advanced communications. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress to support and grow these ongoing efforts at NIST as well as other activities across the Department that can help advance U.S. competitiveness in key technology areas, and that contribute to the establishment of a robust domestic semiconductor ecosystem.

Broadband Interagency Coordination. As we discussed at your hearing, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) can play a major role in expanding broadband throughout Arizona. In addition to the programs designed to expand access into rural and tribal areas of Arizona, the COVID relief bill also sets up a one-stop shop at NTIA to coordinate broadband development opportunities across the executive branch.

Question 3. Will you commit to quickly establish that office and help state and local governments identify all the opportunities for Federal assistance for broadband deployment?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to promptly establishing the new office and to help state and local governments identify all the opportunities for Federal assistance for broadband deployment. It is my understanding that NTIA has begun the process of setting up the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth and to implement the new obligations relative to tracking Federal dollars, streamlining application processes, and coordinating among Federal agencies relative to broadband funding.

Cross Border Trade. Cross border trade is an economic driver of Arizona's economy. A University of Arizona study shows that Mexican tomato imports support 33,000 U.S. jobs. Agribusiness supply chains derived from these imported tomatoes account for nearly \$3 billion in U.S. gross domestic product. With trade agreements in place, such as USMCA, the North America supply chain provides consumers with the opportunity for choice and affordable produce while supporting our domestic growers. USTR has recently initiated a number of trade investigations having to do with imported produce, specifically related to seasonality concerns. These investigations destabilize the supply chain and open the door to potential damaging retaliations from our trade partners. That's why I joined with Senator Moran and other members of Congress to send a letter to USTR, urging them to consider the potential impacts when making these decisions.

Question 4. In your opinion, how do we continue to foster a strong trade supply chain while not disrupting the USMCA and ensuring our domestic growers are supported and consumers are given affordable choices throughout the year?

Answer. If confirmed, I will ensure that Commerce continues its outreach with growers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables to enhance their understanding of applicable trade remedy laws and processes and will continue to monitor foreign subsidy practices that have a direct impact on U.S. producers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables.

Commercial Space. The commercial space industry is growing at an incredible speed—creating jobs, innovating, and fostering public-private partnerships across the country. Yuma, Arizona is currently going through the process to establish a spaceport that would have the ability to launch mini and nano satellites. If the spaceport moves forward, it will grow Yuma's economy and help the United States remain a leader in space.

Question 5. As the commercial space economy expands and more technology is sent into space, how will you work with entities to ensure the National Airspace System is able to support additional launch and reentry points as well as increased traffic?

Answer. I understand the importance in providing space situational awareness and traffic management to ensure safe and productive development in the space economy. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NOAA, other Federal agencies, and the Congress on this important topic.

Space Traffic Management. Given the exponential growth in numbers of satellites and the increasing amount of debris in orbit, the Office of Space Commerce is charged with protecting the space based services that are critical to our Nation's infrastructure, sustaining U.S. space sector leadership globally, and international space cooperation. Last year Congress provided increased funding for the Office of Space Commerce and direction to initiate a Space Traffic Management (STM) pilot program in collaboration with industry.

Question 6. What are your thoughts on the importance of Space Traffic Management?

Answer. I understand that successful and collaborative space traffic management will be essential if the U.S. and the world are to realize the potential benefits of a healthy and growing space economy. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NOAA, other Federal agencies, and the Congress on this important topic.

Privacy Shield. In July of 2020, the European Court of Justice struck down the Privacy Shield program, invalidating a critical mechanism for transferring personal data to the United States from the European Union. This has raised significant concerns about the continued viability of trans-Atlantic data flows, which are estimated to generate more than \$7 trillion in economic activity.

Question 7. As Secretary of Commerce, will you support and prioritize the ongoing negotiations to replace the Privacy Shield program with the goal of ensuring the continued viability of trans-Atlantic data flows?

Answer. If confirmed, one of my top priorities as Commerce Secretary will be to quickly conclude an enhanced Privacy Shield framework that fully addresses the European Court of Justice's concerns and enables the EU-U.S. transfers of personal data that underpin the \$7.1 trillion transatlantic economy. I will work closely with my counterparts in the U.S. government, in particular the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Justice, and the Department of State, in order to ensure that these whole of government negotiations are successful and the 5,400+ Privacy Shield participants, more than 70 percent of whom were small and medium enterprises, can efficiently and effectively do business with Europe once again on firm ground.

Bioscience and IP Rights. In Arizona, our bioscience and biotech industries fuel new jobs, and delivering life-changing innovations. We've worked hard in Arizona to leverage smart public sector investments to attract next generation start-ups, as well as global companies looking to build out manufacturing and research facilities. Arizona inventors have been awarded more than 2,000 bioscience-related patents since 2016. Never have the benefits of strong IP been as relevant as they are today. We have seen how pharmaceutical researchers have worked so quickly to develop COVID vaccines and therapeutics, and the importance of going after stolen IP and fraudulent medical products.

Question 8. In order to continue driving discovery and to maintain the global competitiveness of American and Arizonan companies, how will the Commerce Department use trade enforcement tools to create a level playing field and protect millions of American jobs?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with the Congress to protect U.S. intellectual property. The Department will address the challenge of protecting U.S. intellectual property from theft and unfair competition by helping our innovators and creators, providing information on how to obtain protection, maintaining high standards for protection in any future trade agreements, using tools at the Department's disposal to ensure our trading partners abide by their international commitments, including those respecting IP protection and enforcement, and participating and defending

U.S. intellectual property interests in international forums and standard setting processes.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JACKY ROSEN TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Question 1. The ability to transfer data across international borders is crucial to a broad range of companies, of all sizes and industries, and to consumers who rely on global services to help them work, learn, and connect with others from home. Can you commit to making it a priority to help ensure that companies can continue to transfer data across international borders and to working with your European counterparts to reach a new agreement to support data transfers from the EU to the US?

Answer. If confirmed, one of my top priorities as Commerce Secretary will be to quickly conclude an enhanced Privacy Shield framework that fully addresses the European Court of Justice's concerns and enables the EU-U.S. transfers of personal data that underpin the \$7.1 trillion transatlantic economy. I will work closely with my counterparts in the U.S. government, in particular the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Justice, and the Department of State, in order to ensure that these whole of government negotiations are successful and the 5,400+ Privacy Shield participants, more than 70 percent of whom were small and medium enterprises, can efficiently and effectively do business with Europe once again on firm ground.

Question 2. With a majority of Americans working remotely due to COVID-19, will you commit to strengthening cybersecurity workforce capabilities to secure and defend information infrastructure?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I commit to strengthening our cybersecurity workforce capabilities. I am aware of NIST's recently revised Workforce Framework for Cybersecurity and the output of the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education, which NIST manages. I look forward to working with NIST and the Department to continue improving our Nation's cyber workforce.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. ROGER WICKER TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Question 1. Gov. Raimondo, supply chain security is a growing challenge for the business community and the Federal government needs to coordinate its efforts and work with the private sector to protect our interests. Will you commit to reviewing the Department of Commerce's recently issued Information and Communications Technology and Services (ICTS) Supply Chain interim final rule to ensure it is reasonable and is part of a coordinated Federal strategy to secure the supply chain? Yes or no?

Answer. With experience in both the private and public sector, I know how critical it is to protect the interest of all Americans, consumers and constituents. If confirmed, I will work with the professionals at the Department and conduct a thorough review of the recently issued ICTS Supply Chain interim final rule as well as the Department's other supply chain activities.

Question 2. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which included COVID-19 stimulus and relief funding, included \$1.3 billion for broadband grants—\$1 billion for Tribal areas and \$300 million for broadband deployment in unserved areas. Those grants will be administered by the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The purpose of this question is to ensure that those broadband resources are targeted to unserved areas. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 included \$1.3 billion for broadband grants—\$1 billion for Tribal areas and \$300 million for broadband deployment in unserved areas. Those grants will be administered by the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). If confirmed, will you commit to ensure that those broadband resources are targeted to unserved areas and are not used to overbuild areas that already have broadband service from a private sector provider or are served by a project funded by another agency? Yes or no?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed, I will work with the NTIA to implement broadband resources pursuant to the language set forth in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

Question 3. Spectrum is critical for wireless innovation, closing the digital divide, and winning the race to 5G. The United States is one of the only countries in the

world that has a bifurcated system for managing spectrum—the Federal Communications Commission manages non-Federal, commercial spectrum and NTIA manages the Federal government’s use of spectrum. Historically, all Federal agencies would work through NTIA to represent its spectrum needs before the FCC. Spectrum is critical for wireless innovation, closing the digital divide, and winning the race to 5G. The Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s management of the efficient use of Federal spectrum is key to achieving each of these goals. If confirmed, will you work with NTIA to ensure it is the voice—and not other agencies—representing the Executive Branch’s position on Federal spectrum matters? Yes or no?

Answer. NTIA is the critical voice of the Executive Branch on Federal spectrum matters, and, if confirmed, I will affirmatively work to ensure this is so.

Question 4. Improving our Nation’s cybersecurity requires working closely with industry to develop and adopt best cybersecurity practices. The National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST, has a long track record of helping the public and private sectors improve cybersecurity. Going forward, it is important to take into account the work that NIST has undertaken on these issues as the Executive Branch further develops and refines its cybersecurity strategy. How would you advance the Department of Commerce’s role in strengthening our Nation’s cybersecurity, and how would it facilitate developing best practices and building secure systems?

Answer. Our nation’s cybersecurity is of paramount importance, and if confirmed I look forward to working with NIST, the Department of Commerce’s lead agency on cybersecurity issues, to help advance our national cybersecurity posture. If confirmed, my plan is to ensure the Department will continue to build on NIST’s proven record and capability of research and collaboration with the private sector, academia, standards development organizations, other government agencies, and national and international stakeholders, in order to deliver the most up-to-date cybersecurity standards and guidance.

Question 5. The “space economy” is expected to grow from \$350 billion to nearly \$1 trillion by 2040. A tremendous opportunity exists for American space companies to capitalize on growth in a variety of sectors such as space launch, communications, on-orbit servicing, remote sensing, research and development, and even tourism. If confirmed, I hope you will support the Office of Space Commerce (OSC).

What is your understanding of the roles and missions of the Office of Space Commerce? Do you believe that the OSC can play an important role in fostering American economic leadership and opportunities in space?

Would you consider organizational change within the Department to ensure that OSC is properly prioritized and resourced?

Answer. I understand that NOAA and the Office of Space Commerce (OSC) play a key role in working with the commercial space industry. If confirmed, I look forward to learning more about the Office of Space Commerce and to working with Congress to ensure that it is properly resourced and can continue to serve this important function.

Question 6. Today, over 2,000 active satellites serve functions that underpin much of our modern digital economy and enable the technology we so often take for granted. But those satellites, as well as astronauts aboard the International Space Station, are threatened by hundreds of thousands of pieces of “junk” or space debris. Some of that debris is large enough to track with radar telescopes, but most of it is not.

With the space domain increasingly congested, opportunities for collisions, spectrum interference, and other “traffic management” challenges have likewise increased. In light of this, the National Space Council announced Space Policy Directive 3 in June of 2018, which designated the Department of Commerce as the lead civil agency for space situational awareness and notification of satellite operators of potential conjunctions or collisions—functions previously carried out by the Department of Defense.

Further examination of the issue by this Committee and a study conducted by the National Academy of Public Administration affirmed that conclusion, and resulted in Senator Cantwell, Senator Sinema, and I introducing the SPACE Act of 2020. That legislation would transfer civil SSA and STM authorities from the Department of Defense to the Department of Commerce and establish a center of excellence for SSA and STM research.

Do you agree that congestion in space requires urgent U.S. Government action to protect the space environment through better space situational awareness and traffic management?

Senator Cantwell and I plan to reintroduce the SPACE Act soon. Will you review that legislation and work with us to protect the space environment?

Will you consult with Congress before advocating for any change to SPD-3?

Answer. I understand the importance in providing space situational awareness and traffic management to ensure safe and productive development in the space economy. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you as you develop legislation on this important topic.

Question 7. I introduced and passed the bipartisan Modern Fish Act to improve the management of recreational fisheries by incorporating the best available science. In the Gulf of Mexico, states like Mississippi have invested significant time and money to develop a more accurate understanding of how much recreational fishermen harvest. NOAA is rejecting the high quality state data, and instead the agency is prioritizing the less accurate Federal data from the Marine Recreational Information Program. This could unfairly decrease Mississippi's share of the Red Snapper fishery by 60 percent in 2021. Will you work with me to ensure Mississippi is not unfairly punished by directing Federal fishery managers to work with the states and use the more accurate and timely state fishery data in the Gulf recreational red snapper fishery?

Answer. As Governor of the Ocean State, I recognize that saltwater recreational fishing is an integral part of American coastal life, communities, and economies. I also understand the importance of stock assessment data and the need for it to be grounded in the best available science. If confirmed, I would commit to learning more about NOAA's Marine Recreational Information Program and to working with you and NOAA on this issue as the program pertains to Gulf of Mexico fisheries.

Question 8. Regional Ocean Partnerships are made up of coastal states and promote the effective stewardship of our oceans and coasts by giving those states a strong voice. Last Congress, Senator Cantwell and I introduced the Regional Ocean Partnership Act to codify the existing regional ocean partnerships. Do you commit to working with me to ensure the states have a strong voice in the stewardship of their oceans and coasts? Additionally, as a Governor of a coastal state, do you see benefits to state partnerships for taking care of our marine resources and promoting the blue economy?

Answer. As a Governor, I recognize the need for states and tribal governments to have a strong voice in the shared stewardship of our Nation's coasts and oceans. NOAA coordinates closely on the management, resilience, and restoration of ocean and coastal areas through collaborative regional efforts led by Regional Ocean Partnerships. These partnerships have enabled my state of Rhode Island and other states to successfully guide and manage appropriate development and conservation within our coastal and marine resources. If confirmed, I will work with NOAA to strengthen our partnerships with States and tribal governments to address coastal and marine issues across our shared ocean resources.

Question 9. Southern Mississippi and the University of Rhode Island both play important roles in supporting NOAA's work on this issue. Uncrewed maritime systems are a highly cost-effective way for NOAA to increase the number of observations it collects. Will you work with me to increase NOAA's use of uncrewed maritime systems? Additionally, can you talk about the synergies you saw in Rhode Island when NOAA leveraged the strength of its university partners?

Answer. I recognize the importance of the safe, efficient, and cost-effective operation of uncrewed systems, which NOAA uses to collect high-quality environmental data for the agency's science, products and services. Rhode Island is a nexus for the industrial revolution in autonomous technologies and the University of Rhode Island (URI) is a leader in ocean exploration. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and other partners to advance modern ocean technology and increase NOAA's use of uncrewed maritime systems.

Question 10. Governor Raimondo, one of the most immediate tasks for the incoming Administration is to ensure global telecommunications networks are safe and secure, especially with 5G networks coming online. What is your view on how the Administration should go about exploring all options for the development and deployment of secure global telecommunications networks?

Answer. Given our increased reliance on broadband due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our need for safe and secure domestic and global telecommunications networks for education, healthcare and business is critical. The work to enhance the security of communications networks at home and abroad will require a range of efforts from across the U.S. government, working in close collaboration with our international and industry partners.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JOHN THUNE TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Question 1. Global copyright theft undercuts the U.S. economic recovery, the global competitiveness agenda, and the high-paying jobs and vendors that the copyright industries support. Small businesses in the copyright industries heavily rely on copyright protection and enforcement to create, finance and grow. What will you do to ensure that our trading partners effectively protect and enforce copyright?

Answer. If I am confirmed, I will support robust Intellectual Property (IP) protection and enforcement frameworks in our Free Trade Agreements and our continued engagement in international organizations, including the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to ensure that our trading partners can effectively protect and enforce copyright.

In addition, I will leverage the Department of Commerce's extensive expertise and resources, including the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the International Trade Administration, to promote the protection and enforcement of copyright around the world by providing training and technical advice to foreign trading partners.

Furthermore, I will support continued outreach and assistance to U.S. creators and copyright owners, including small businesses, in the protection and licensing of U.S. movies, music, literature, software, and other creative works, including through our network of Intellectual Property Attaches in embassies, consulates, and missions around the world.

Question 2. Advanced communication systems such as 5G and Wi-Fi 6 are critical to facilitating U.S. competitiveness in a wide variety of industries. How do you see the Department of Commerce and NTIA working to facilitate and promote 5G?

Answer. If confirmed, I will ensure the full technical expertise of the Department and NTIA is available to lead U.S. government efforts to help ensure that 5G standards are state-of-the-art, fit-for-purpose, and developed through open, bottom-up, industry-led, consensus-based processes free of the influence of state-actors or their proxies.

Question 3. The Department of Commerce's own data shows that in U.S. firms that export goods and services, sales grow faster, more jobs are created, and employees earn more than in non-exporting firms. An ever-growing number of these exporters are small businesses. Unfortunately, even in the countries where we have free trade agreements, our companies continue to face trade barriers such as inadequate intellectual property protections, data localization rules, and price controls that violate these agreements. Much of the responsibility of enforcing these agreements and protecting U.S. businesses falls to the Department of Commerce. Governor Raimondo, can you commit that you will be as vigilant in the execution of the responsibility of holding our trading partners to account on behalf of our U.S. exporters as the Department will be in protecting our businesses from imports that violate our laws and trade agreements?

Answer. If confirmed, Commerce will continue to level the playing for American workers and businesses. The Department of Commerce is committed to holding our trading partners accountable when they violate our laws and trade agreements by proactively monitoring, identifying and resolving trade barriers. I commit to working with allies and likeminded trading partners to promote policies that support U.S. exports and encourage foreign investment into the United States. I also commit to rigorously enforce the U.S. trade remedy laws to address unfair dumping and subsidization of imports from foreign trading partners that injure the domestic industry.

Question 4. As you know, the United States continues to face growing cybersecurity threats. Last year, NTIA and other Federal agencies were breached in a supply-chain attack by malicious hackers. An attack at this scale has an enormous effect on our economy and national security. It provides our adversaries with unauthorized access to sensitive data, intellectual property, and critical infrastructure. If confirmed, how would the Department respond to this economic espionage and work with industry to combat ongoing cyber threats?

Answer. If confirmed, I will ensure that the Department continues to play an active role in helping industry and government agencies better defend against a range of cyber threats by working with experts and stakeholders to constantly advance the collective tools, standards, and expectations in the marketplace.

Question 5. A week and a half ago marked the one-year anniversary of the U.S.-China Phase 1 trade deal. China committed to purchasing a significant amount of U.S. exports—an additional \$200 billion of U.S. products over a two-year period.

How does the Commerce Department plan to respond to China if it does not meet its Phase 1 commitments, particularly the purchase of U.S. exports?

Answer. China's actions toward U.S. businesses are coercive and abusive and if confirmed, my plan is to ensure the Department of Commerce (Commerce) continues supporting U.S. exports, including those purchases agreed upon by China as part of the U.S.-China Phase 1 trade deal. Commerce will continue to work with USTR to hold China accountable and use our full tool kit, including export promotion resources of the Foreign Commercial Service.

Question 6. With agriculture being South Dakota's biggest industry, my state relies on reliable and accurate weather prediction, especially when it comes to drought and flood risk monitoring. For that reason, I requested that the most recent WRDA bill include a provision to build out a network of weather monitoring stations across the Upper Missouri River Basin and require NOAA to acquire the data and develop a pilot program to improve existing climate and forecasting models with the new data. If confirmed, can you commit to working with me to stand up this important pilot program at NOAA, which will greatly benefit flood control and drought monitoring for much of the Great Plains region?

Answer. I recognize the importance weather has on industries, like agriculture, to the economy of South Dakota and our Nation. If confirmed, I will ensure that NOAA leads with data and sound science. I look forward to working with you on this program, and to ensuring that NOAA and its National Weather Service are the gold standard for weather, water, and climate forecasting.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. ROY BLUNT TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Question 1. Do you intend to conduct a review of the steel and aluminum tariffs implemented under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962

a. Will the Department study the impact on downstream industries that consume goods impacted by the tariffs, specifically the decisions of companies to build facilities and production capacity in the United States?

b. Will the Department make any changes to the tariff exclusion request process? What will the Department do to avoid backlogs and delays?

c. Will the Department consider giving exclusions to industries that have no impact on national security, such as food and beverage processing or consumer automobiles?

Answer. If confirmed as Secretary, I plan to review any work the Department of Commerce (Commerce) has already done on the impact of the tariffs and will ensure that any review is up to date. It is my understanding that the Commerce Department is continually reviewing the process and scope of the 232 Exclusions Process to increase its efficiency and transparency.

Question 2. How will the Department of Commerce protect American workers and main street businesses against China's unfair trading practices? How will the Department work with our other trading partners in the region to facilitate trade and counter China's influence?

Answer. If confirmed, I am committed to addressing unfair and abusive trading practices by China and other nations through its network of trade experts and commercial diplomats. I will work with allies and likeminded trading partners to identify and address trade barriers in order to promote policies that support U.S. exports and continue to vigorously enforce existing U.S. trade laws, including the anti-dumping (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) laws, to ensure that U.S. workers, farmers and businesses are not harmed by unfair imports from China.

a. American innovation in technology continues to create high-tech manufacturing jobs and reduce our dependence on China. Will you commit to working with Congress to vigorously protect American intellectual property from unfair competition?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with Congress to protect U.S. intellectual property. The Department will address the challenge of protecting U.S. intellectual property from theft and unfair competition by helping our innovators and creators, providing information on how to obtain protection, maintaining high standards for protection in any future trade agreements, using tools at the Department's disposal to ensure our trading partners abide by their international commitments, including those respecting IP protection and enforcement, and participating and defending U.S. intellectual property interests in international forums and standard setting processes.

Question 3. How will the Department of Commerce enforce our trade agreements? What actions will the Department take against entities that violate our trade agreements?

Specifically, on intellectual property, how will the Department fully and effectively defend U.S. companies' IP rights around the world and ensure that foreign governments live up to their trade agreement IP obligations?

Answer. The Department of Commerce (Commerce) has the statutory responsibility to monitor trading partners' trade agreement compliance and as such, proactively monitors, investigates, and resolves non-tariff trade barriers. If confirmed, I will work with Commerce staff, and when appropriate the Office of the United States Trade Representative, to expeditiously address non-compliance matters and refer for dispute settlement as needed.

Question 4. The COVID-19 pandemic created a disruption in global supply lines and led to a shortage of semiconductor chips. Many American manufacturing workers and main street businesses produce products that include semiconductor chips to enhance safety and efficiency. The current shortage is slowing down American factories and may result in a total work stoppage.

a. Will the Department of Commerce work with our trading partners to help alleviate the shortage of semiconductor chips?

Answer. The Department of Commerce will play an active role in President Biden's whole-of-government approach to semiconductors. In the short term, we should work with trading partners to explore options for alleviating this shortage. In the long term, we must take steps to ensure a resilient and secure supply chain for semiconductor chips, including continued assistance to firms expanding their semiconductor manufacturing investments in the United States. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress to these ends.

Question 5. In July of 2020, the European Court of Justice struck down the Privacy Shield program, invalidating a mechanism for transferring personal data to the U.S. from the EU. This has raised significant concerns about the continued viability of trans-Atlantic data flows, which are estimated to generate more than \$7 trillion in economic activity, at an important moment for both U.S. economic recovery and EU-US relations.

a. As Secretary of Commerce, will you support and prioritize the on-going negotiations to replace the Privacy Shield program with the goal of ensuring the continued viability of trans-Atlantic data flows?

b. Given the potential economic impact of interrupted data flows across the U.S. economy, are you planning to be directly involved in these discussions? Are there additional steps you intend to take?

Answer. If confirmed, one of my top priorities as Commerce Secretary will be to quickly conclude an enhanced Privacy Shield framework that fully addresses the European Court of Justice's concerns and enables the EU-U.S. transfers of personal data that underpin the \$7.1 trillion transatlantic economy. I will work closely with my counterparts in the U.S. government, in particular the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Justice, and the Department of State, in order to ensure that these whole of government negotiations are successful and the 5,400+ Privacy Shield participants, more than 70 percent of whom were small and medium enterprises, can efficiently and effectively do business with Europe once again on firm ground.

Question 6. Artificial intelligence (AI) technology is proliferating and important considerations are being brought to light about both the benefits and challenges of these technologies. Most notably, the European Commission is making significant progress toward an AI regulatory approach. The Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act included a bipartisan requirement for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to establish a collaborative trustworthy AI framework, akin to their landmark cybersecurity and privacy frameworks.

a. As the leading producer of AI in the world, do you agree that the U.S. should be part of the global conversation on AI standards, management practices, and regulation?

Answer. Yes. I agree unequivocally that the U.S. should be part of the global conversation on AI standards, management practices, and regulation. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NIST and others across the Department to ensure that the U.S. maintains its strong voice in these important global conversations on AI.

b. Given that it received considerable bipartisan support in Congress, will you support and prioritize the on-going and important work by NIST to launch to create a trustworthy AI framework?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I will be a strong supporter and advocate for NIST's work to create a framework for trustworthy AI. I understand that NIST has received funding from Congress that will support this important work.

Question 7. I served on the Energy and Commerce Committee in 2009 when Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which sent billions of dollars to the Department of Commerce to provide broadband grants. I was concerned in 2009, and I remain concerned that we are not doing enough to protect taxpayer money from being used to overbuild existing broadband networks.

a. Will you commit to the Committee that under your leadership at the Department of Commerce, you will ensure that NTIA works with all government and industry stakeholders to mitigate the threat of using Federal money to overbuild existing broadband networks?

Answer. Yes.

b. How will you work to ensure that Federal resources are used for the construction of broadband networks in wholly unserved, rather than underserved, parts of the country?

Answer. As Governor, I have had to watch the challenges many families and individuals have in my state without access to broadband or have very limited bandwidth. If confirmed, as Secretary, I will work to ensure that broadband grants are directed to the communities most deserving and in need, consistent with the intent of the statute.

Question 8. As you may be aware, within the Department of Commerce is the National Travel & Tourism Office and the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, which inform the Commerce Secretary on emerging issues in travel and tourism, including travel facilitation, transportation infrastructure, and aviation security. The travel industry has been one of the hardest hit by the pandemic, and the Department has a critical role to play in the balancing of public health and safety in air travel with the need to support the viability of the travel industry.

The U.S. must lead the global community in implementing a multi-layered, risk-based approach to restarting travel. Though I am glad to hear President Biden will advance the CDC's new testing requirement for inbound, international travelers, I believe that more can be done to ensure that this rule is implemented smoothly.

a. Will you commit to addressing these concerns and considering the interests of the travel industry as you work with your colleagues in the Administration to tackle this crisis?

Answer. I believe it is critical for our economic recovery that the United States prioritize the safe opening of domestic and international travel in a way that mitigates the transmission of disease. On January 21, President Biden issued an Executive Order on Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel that mandates testing of travelers entering the United States and directs the Departments of Transportation, Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other agencies to provide additional recommendations to the COVID-19 Response Coordinator (Coordinator) on measures to support the safe reopening of international and domestic travel. If confirmed, it is my intention to offer the assistance of the Department of Commerce in bringing the perspective of the travel and tourism industry, communicating to the travel trade in the United States and international markets, and coordinating across government.

Question 9. Before leaving office, President Trump signed an executive order that seeks to grant the Department of Commerce authorities to impose data collection requirements on cloud providers. It is unclear how this action will effect relationships between cloud providers and their customers overseas. These outcomes may put a major sector of the U.S. economy at risk without clarity on how this action advances data security.

Do I have your commitment to carefully review this EO and to work with impacted industry stakeholders on this topic and others relating to Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)?

Answer. If confirmed, I will carefully review the Executive Order and work with impacted industry stakeholders on this topic and others relating to Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS).

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TED CRUZ TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Question 1. Governor, in your confirmation hearing I asked you several questions about an ongoing review of China policy by the Biden administration, which includes the potential to remove several entities from the Department of Commerce's "Entity List." This list, as you may know, houses foreign parties—such as an individual, business, research institution, or government organization—which engage in activities contrary to U.S. national security and/or foreign policy interests. Specifically, I asked about entities that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) uses to conduct their surveillance campaigns of the Uighurs in Xinjiang, which is part of their campaign of genocide in the region, and about Huawei, which is a global espionage tool of the CCP masquerading as a technology firm.

Additionally, on Jan 19 then-Secretary of State Pompeo announced that the State Department had determined that "the People's Republic of China is committing genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang, China, targeting Uyghur Muslims and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups." The same day, now-Secretary of State Blinken confirmed that he agrees with that assessment in testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: "That would be my judgment as well . . . I think we're very much in agreement," he said. "The forcing of men, women and children into concentration camps; trying to, in effect, re-educate them to be adherents to the ideology of the Chinese Communist Party, all of that speaks to an effort to commit genocide."

In response to my questions about companies used by the CCP for their surveillance campaigns of the Uighurs, you said—

"I will commit that should I be confirmed and I am there, I will review the policy, consult with you, consult with industry, consult with our allies and make an assessment on what is best for American national security."

This answer is both troubling and does not address my questions. I'd like to now more specifically ask you—

a. Do you believe that the CCP's targeting of the Uighurs in Xinjiang constitutes a genocide?

b. Will you commit to ensuring the entities that were placed on the Entity List because of their involvement in the CCP's human rights abuses against the Uighurs and others in Xinjiang remain on the Entity List, should you be confirmed as the Secretary of Commerce?

c. Will you commit to ensuring Huawei and its subsidiaries and affiliates that are currently on the Entity List remain on the Entity List, should you be confirmed as the Secretary of Commerce?

Answer. Secretary of State Blinken has made clear his judgement that China's actions in Xinjiang constitute an effort to commit genocide, and he speaks on behalf of the President on this issue. I agree with him that the U.S. government has tools, including some that Congress has provided, to take actions to not import products that are made with forced labor from Xinjiang, or exporting technologies and tools that could be used to further Uighurs' repression. If confirmed, I will review how the Bureau of Industry and Security's (BIS) authorities can be leveraged to promote the protection of human rights, as Congress directed in the Export Control Reform Act (ECRA), including through review of licenses for human rights concerns and Entity List actions. I will also ensure any proposed additions or removals comply with the policies and procedures of the Export Administration Regulations (EAR).

With respect to Huawei, let me be clear: telecommunications equipment made by untrusted vendors is a threat to the security of the U.S. and our allies. We will ensure that American telecommunications networks do not use equipment from untrusted vendors and will work with allies to secure their telecommunications networks and make investments to expand the production of telecommunications equipment by trusted U.S. and allied companies.

In addition, Huawei's ties to China's military, human right abuses, and theft of intellectual property have rightly been a source of bipartisan concern, regulatory action, and legislation in the United States and among U.S. partners and allies. I also am fully aware of and support the provisions of the FY2020 NDAA and Secure and Trusted Telecommunications Networks Act that contain restrictions on Huawei, and look forward to working closely with the Director of National Intelligence, Secretary of Defense, and Director of the FBI to ensure that administration policies and actions related Huawei reflect their national security concerns and judgments as well.

Question 2. The government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party have established an ecosystem of public-facing businesses and military infrastructure, sometimes described as a civil-military fusion, to advance China's national security interests. Utilizing public and private assets, they have among other things made great strides in globally advancing their civilian nuclear industry.

a. Governor, what is your understanding of China's civil-military fusion policy and its implications for the national security of the United States? Please answer with as much detail as possible.

Answer. I am aware of the substantial challenges China's military-civil fusion policy poses to U.S. national security. If confirmed, I plan to leverage the full breadth of the authorities under the purview of the Department of Commerce in order to protect U.S. national and economic security interests. I also look forward to working with the Secretary of Defense and Director of National Intelligence to fully implement related provisions of the FY2021 NDAA (Section 1260H) and other relevant legislation.

b. Will you commit to denying any licenses or permits that would allow the export or reexport of technology that would be used to advance China's civil nuclear sector, if you are confirmed?

Answer. If confirmed as Secretary of Commerce, I would ensure the rigorous implementation of the existing framework for U.S. civil nuclear exports to China and also support U.S. companies that raise concerns regarding Chinese behavior. The entire U.S. government continues to closely monitor Chinese behavior in the civil sector and the Department of Commerce will use all of the tools at its disposal, including the Entity List and license denial, where there is evidence of wrongdoing and threats to economic and national security.

Question 3. Huawei, the ZTE Corporation, the Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation, the Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Co., the Aviation Industry Corporation of China, Beijing Skytron Aviation, and the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China have been correctly listed on the Entity List and on Military End User Lists because they pose a national security threats to the United States. I'd like to ask you some questions about those companies and those threats.

a. Do you agree these companies pose national threats to the United States? If you do not, please describe why you do not believe so.

b. Will you commit to keeping all of these companies on the Entity List? If not, please explain why not.

c. Will you commit to keeping all of these companies on the Military End User List? If not, please explain why not.

Answer. The United States is engaged in strategic competition with China, and technology is a central domain of that competition. We should have no illusions about China's objectives, which I believe are to undercut America's longstanding technological advantage and to displace America as the global leader in cutting-edge research and development and the industries of the future. The national security and economic consequences of allowing that to happen are simply unacceptable. That is the bottom-line perspective I will bring to this role, if confirmed.

With respect to the Entity List, I understand that parties are placed on the Entity List and the Military End User List generally because they pose a risk to U.S. national security or foreign policy interests. I currently have no reason to believe that entities on those lists should not be there. If confirmed, I look forward to a briefing on these entities and others of concern. I further understand that the Department has an ongoing process in place to identify and review activities of the Chinese government, commercial entities, and their affiliates to determine whether placement of additional entities on the Entity List and/or the Military End User List is warranted. I understand that this is an interagency process. As Secretary, I will not hesitate to encourage the use of the Entity List, the Military End User List, and other appropriate tools within the scope of Commerce authorities to protect U.S. national security and foreign policy interests.

Question 4. Are there currently entities listed on the Entity and Military End User Lists you do not consider to be national security threats to the United States? If so, please specify—

a. Which entities those are; and

b. How you reached that determination for each party.

Answer. I understand that parties are placed on the Entity List and the Military End User List generally because they pose a risk to U.S. national security or foreign policy interests. I currently have no reason to believe that entities on those lists

should not be there. If confirmed, I look forward to a briefing on these entities. I further understand that the Department has an ongoing process in place to identify and review the activities of entities and their affiliates to determine whether addition to the Entity List and/or the Military End User List is warranted and that this is an interagency process. As Secretary, I will not hesitate to encourage the use of the Entity List, the Military End User List, and other appropriate tools within the scope of Commerce authorities to protect U.S. national security and foreign policy interests.

Question 5. If you will not commit to ensuring foreign parties engaged in activities contrary to U.S. national security and/or foreign policy interests will not be removed from the Entity and/or Military End User Lists, please list, specifically—

a. Which parties on the Entity List and/or Military End User List you would consider removing and allowing access to sensitive U.S. technology; and

b. Your rationale for removing each party from the Entity List and/or Military End User List.

Answer. I understand that the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) has an ongoing process in place to identify and review activities of entities and their affiliates to determine whether addition to the Entity List and/or the Military End User List is warranted and that this is an interagency process. I currently have no reason to believe that entities on those lists should not be there. If confirmed, I look forward to a briefing on these entities and the interagency process. As Secretary, I will not hesitate to encourage the use of the Entity List, the Military End User List, and other appropriate tools within the scope of Commerce authorities to protect U.S. national security and foreign policy interests.

Question 6. The re-export of illicit technology to Iran poses an acute and complicated challenge to the enforcement of American export and re-export laws. The Iranian regime consistently seeks to circumvent American efforts to curb its support for terrorism and expansionism by acquiring technology through third countries, including sensitive military technology. Information that has been declassified across multiple administrations and indictments which have been unsealed indicate the regime using front companies and other means to evade detection. Please describe—

a. How you evaluate the challenge posed by Iran's acquisition of prohibited technologies through third parties, including specifically aviation and aeronautical technology.

b. The priority you intend to place, if confirmed, on enforcing American re-export restrictions to Iran.

c. Specific steps you would take to stop the flow of prohibited goods to Iran, if you are confirmed.

Answer. Currently, a license from the Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) is required to export or reexport most items (commodities, software, and technology) on the Commerce Control List (CCL) to Iran pursuant to EAR Section 746.7. In addition to BIS license requirements, the Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) prohibits exports and reexports to Iran of items subject of the EAR pursuant to the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations (ITSR) (31 CFR Part 560). Taken together, the two agencies' authorities broadly restrict the provision of items subject to the EAR to Iran, whether by U.S. persons or non-U.S. persons, and including from third countries. If confirmed, I commit to working alongside Treasury Secretary Yellen to ensure appropriate coordination between our agencies to ensure strict compliance with these restrictions.

Question 7. The Commerce Department is responsible for enforcing U.S. anti-boycott laws which impose penalties for participating in boycotts that run contrary to American interests, including and especially boycotts of Israel that Congress has consistently sought to discourage

a. If confirmed, you will oversee the Office of Anti-boycott Compliance. Will you commit that you will fully and actively enforce U.S. anti-boycott laws and regulations, and prioritize protecting American companies from foreign boycotts?

b. In dealings with countries that participate in the boycott of Israel, will you commit to making it a priority to encourage them to end their boycott?

Answer. I commit to fully and actively enforcing all U.S. anti-boycott laws and will always prioritize protecting American companies and the American worker.

Question 8. On his first day in office, President Biden rejoined the Paris Agreement, a binding international treaty on climate change. Similarly, you signaled intent to enact climate change policy should you be confirmed as Secretary of Commerce.

a. What role will the Department of Commerce have in implementing the stringent requirements of the Paris Climate Agreement?

b. Under what statutory authority does the Department of Commerce have the ability to do so?

Answer (a and b). Like President Biden, I know the climate crisis poses an existential threat to our economic security, and we must meet this challenge by creating millions of good, union jobs that power a more sustainable economy. The Commerce Department has the tools, data, and expertise to help communities and businesses address the climate crisis and become more resilient in the face of climate change. As one of the agencies under the Congressionally mandated U.S. Global Change Research Program, the Department of Commerce, through NOAA, plays a leadership role in the development of the quadrennial National Climate Assessment, which analyzes trends in global change and its effects on various sectors.

Question 9. Economic analysis estimates that as many as 2.7 million jobs could be lost as a result of complying with the terms of the Paris Accord. Additionally, President Biden revoked the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline on January 20, 2021, eliminating 11,000 jobs.

What will the Department of Commerce do to support the workers whose jobs have already been cancelled by the Biden Administration or will be eliminated in the future?

Answer. Should I be confirmed, I will work closely with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to continue to create new well-paying jobs in distressed areas and ensure that all Americans are well-equipped to compete for jobs of the future. Within the Department of Commerce, EDA leads the Federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing our communities for growth and success in the worldwide economy. EDA's portfolio of flexible programs is designed to assist communities at every stage, allowing for innovation and responsiveness to changing economic conditions that lead to job creation.

Question 10. During your hearing, you stated that the United States needs to formulate a national strategy on spectrum in order to win the race for 5G, in addition to making spectrum available from public and commercial uses. As agencies disagree over spectrum allocation, can you commit that the Biden Administration will never pursue a government-owned telecommunications network?

Answer. United States commercial telecommunications networks are the envy of the world. Commercial telecommunications service providers routinely and reliably deliver a sophisticated, complex, hi-tech service, and they work hard to keep their networks best-in-class. As I stated in my hearing testimony, I do not support nationalization of a 5G telecommunications network and I am unaware of any present intention to pursue a government-owned telecommunications network.

a. Does the Biden Administration plan to rescind the "Defense Spectrum Sharing Request for Information" issued on September 18, 2020 by the Department of Defense?

Answer. That Request for Information was issued by the Department of Defense under the previous Administration. The responses to that Request for Information have already been submitted, and I respectfully submit that this question would be more properly directed to the Secretary of Defense.

Question 11. Family and friends of President Biden are deeply enmeshed in the Washington, D.C. lobbying industry. His son, Hunter Biden, has been paid for consulting and lobbying services by multiple foreign governments. Given the role of the Department of Commerce in promoting America's businesses abroad, what procedures or safeguards will you have in place to guard against impropriety should you be approached by a Biden relative or long-time associate?

Answer. If confirmed, I will ensure that the Department of Commerce adheres to the highest ethical standards. I would also direct you to Executive Order 13989 of January 20, 2021, which affirms a strong ethics pledge for all political appointees in the Biden Administration.

Question 12. In 2009, prior to her confirmation as Secretary of State, then-Senator Hillary Clinton approved a memorandum of Understanding between the Clinton Foundation and the Obama Administration that, through transparency, assure Americans the Foundation was not receiving undue donations as a means to curry favor. Does the Biden Administration plan to require a similarly-transparent plan from the Biden Institute at the University of Delaware, the Biden School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware, long-time Biden associates who may or may not have previously registered as lobbyists, and Biden family members?

Answer. This question is outside the scope of the Department of Commerce. If confirmed, I will ensure that the Department of Commerce adheres to the highest ethical standards. I would also direct you to Executive Order 13989 of January 20, 2021, which affirms a strong ethics pledge for all political appointees in the Biden Administration.

Question 13. Governor, the previous Administration invoked Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to impose duties on imports of steel products that pose a threat to national security. At the time, Democrats publicly stated their position¹ that the rationale used was inadequate. The new Biden Administration has signaled that they may use trade policy and law as a way to combat climate change around the world, possibly using existing trade law to impose ‘carbon’ tariffs on imported products. What is your position on using existing trade law to implement President Biden’s environmental agenda? Do you believe that there is existing authority to impose duties using the rationale of combatting climate change? If so, please specify which statutes and regulations provide that authority.

Answer. If confirmed as Secretary of Commerce, I intend to work closely with Congress on the issue of climate change and can commit to use the tools available under the law and work with our interagency partners and other stakeholders to implement the Administration’s environmental policies, as appropriate.

Question 14. The previous Administration has been criticized for relying too heavily on duties to combat the abusive trade practices used by China that have harmed American business for decades. Governor, what trade enforcement mechanisms do you plan to use as head of the Department of Commerce to protect American businesses and interests from China?

Answer. The Department of Commerce (Commerce) recognizes the need to confront unfair trade practices directly, whether those by China or other countries. Accordingly, if confirmed, I will employ all relevant and appropriate trade enforcement mechanisms to protect U.S. workers and businesses. For example, Commerce will proactively monitor and investigate China’s non-compliance with its WTO trade obligations and work with other agencies, such as the Office of the United States Trade Representative, to implement the most effective strategy to address these issues.

Question 15. Many of our trading partners are simply not living up to their commitments with the U.S. This problem spans the globe and affects every American industry. But in particular, I want to focus on the need to enforce trade obligations for America’s highly innovative industries that rely on American intellectual property. We cannot allow the rest of the world to steal or freeride on the inventions of American workers. How do you intend to use the trade enforcement tools at the department to ensure that we truly combat this issue?

Answer. I recognize that protection and enforcement of U.S. intellectual property rights is a trade policy priority. If confirmed, the Commerce Department, under my direction, would remain actively involved, with USTR and other agencies, in challenging countries to commit to highest standards of intellectual property protection in their agreements with the United States and to fully implement and abide by those commitments. U.S. trading partners must abide by IP-related trade commitments and I am committed to use of Commerce tools and authorities where warranted to bring this about.

Question 16. Biopharmaceutical innovators—and the millions of jobs they support in the United States—have worked mightily over the last year to combat the COVID epidemic, and to good effect. In order to drive discovery and to maintain the global competitiveness of our innovators, how will Commerce work to further strengthen U.S. industry in this fight, as well as in other public health battles in the future?

Answer. EDA has demonstrated support to the Nation’s response to the COVID pandemic through initiatives such as the launch of the Scaling Pandemic Resilience Through Innovation and Technology (SPRINT) Challenge funded through the CARES Act. It is my understanding that the SPRINT Challenge enables EDA to invest in regional innovation economies to address the economic, health, and safety risks caused by the coronavirus pandemic through entrepreneurship such as scaling and delivering innovative biotechnology and health security technologies. EDA plans to continue to leverage innovation to reduce the threat caused by extremely dangerous pathogens to local economies through related initiatives.

Question 17. The purpose of Section 232 tariffs is to stimulate domestic steel production and capacity. In December 2020, the Commerce Department published an interim final rule on the Section 232 product exclusion process, which included the adoption of General Approved Exclusions (GAEs). These GAEs allow covered products to be imported free from Section 232 tariffs, even though the GAE list contains numerous products that the domestic industry can and does produce. Can you de-

scribe what action you would take as the Secretary of Commerce to ensure that the GAEs are modified to cover only those products that the domestic industry is not capable of producing?

Answer. If confirmed, I will ensure that the Department continues to evaluate all aspects of the 232 Exclusions Process, including General Approved Exclusions (GAEs).

Question 18. The Biden Administration has said he will pursue a “worker-centered trade policy.” In the past, this term has been used to pursue a trade agenda that disregards the concerns and interests of businesses, leading to U.S. companies operating at a disadvantage compared to their international counterparts. Given that over 40 million jobs in the United States depend on international trade, it is vital that the trade agenda also be centered around protecting American businesses which supply those jobs. Governor, do you commit to only advancing a trade agenda that protects American businesses’ ability to continue employing American workers?

Answer. If confirmed, it would be my job as Secretary of Commerce to use our trade tools to the fullest extent possible to protect American workers. This includes both enforcing our trade laws and holding our trade partners accountable, but also creating opportunities for U.S. companies to access overseas markets and investment. We must ensure that American workers can compete fairly on the global playing field.

Question 19. The Obama/Biden Administration recognized that there is a massive global overcapacity issue affecting the steel industry, involving not just China, but many other countries as well. Unfortunately, multilateral efforts to address this significant problem, such as the ongoing Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity and the OECD Steel Subsidy negotiations in the early 2000s, have simply not worked. Can you describe what actions you would take as the Secretary of Commerce to address this serious global steel overcapacity issue and ensure a vibrant domestic steel industry, which is critical to U.S. national security?

Answer. The Department of Commerce’s approach to global steel excess capacity includes active international engagement as well as strong enforcement regarding unfairly traded steel imports. If confirmed as Secretary, I intend to continue to coordinate with trading partners on information regarding, and solutions to address, the excess capacity crisis. Additionally, if confirmed, it is my intention to continue to rigorously enforce the U.S. trade laws, including the AD and CVD laws, to help ensure a level playing field for the critical U.S. steel sector.

Question 20. I know as a Governor, you have been very focused on attracting new investments in Rhode Island and in particular foreign direct investment. As Commerce Secretary, you will have the nearly exclusive role of leading America’s campaign for increased foreign direct investment in the US. What is your plan for helping to encourage such investment and the job creation that comes with it?

Answer. It is essential to retain and grow the more than 15 million U.S. jobs directly and indirectly supported by FDI. If confirmed, I will fully support and resource the SelectUSA Program—a group whose work in the last 10 years has supported over \$82 billion in FDI into the U.S. supporting over 100,000 U.S. jobs.

Question 21. The semiconductor industry is often called the “holy grail” of capital investment. A new fab (manufacturing plant for semiconductor chips) can cost upwards of \$10 billion for a green-field new investment. Taiwan’s TSMC recently announced that they plan to build such a plant here in the US, in the State of Arizona. The largest foreign direct investment in the U.S. in more than a decade. Do you agree that the semiconductor industry is important for the U.S. economy and national security and what kinds of actions would you take as Commerce Secretary to further incentivize similar investments in this key sector?

Answer. I agree that U.S. leadership in semiconductors is a cornerstone of U.S. economy and national security as well as the innovation ecosystem that keeps the United States on the cutting edge of technology. The President has highlighted that the United States needs to close supply chain vulnerabilities across a range of critical products on which the U.S. is dangerously dependent on foreign suppliers. If confirmed as Secretary, I will promote policies that will lead to stronger, more resilient domestic supply chains in a number of areas, including energy and grid resilience technologies, semiconductors, key electronics and related technologies, telecommunications infrastructure, and key raw materials. I commit to working with you on this critically important issue.

Question 22. As Commerce Secretary you will lead America’s efforts to protect cutting edge technologies and military systems from being shared with countries that threaten our national security. This is a critical mission, but one that requires careful balance. As Secretary, how would you work to ensure enforcement of our export

control laws without undermining investment in the U.S. or inadvertently hurting American technology companies and preventing them from competing globally?

Answer. If confirmed, I will assess the current process for obtaining input from industry to assure effective export controls that protect U.S. national security and foreign policy interests while mitigating negative effects on U.S. technological leadership. As Secretary, I will also prioritize multilateral and plurilateral engagements that harmonize U.S. export controls with those of like-minded nations, which will strengthen our ability to maintain an effective export control system while limiting the ability of our foreign adversaries to continue to access sensitive U.S. technologies for malign purposes.

Question 23. The mission of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security has traditionally been focused on preventing the sale or export of munitions and weapons components. Together with our key allies this has been a shared effort/priority. More recently, some critics have said that U.S. only export controls have been used to accomplish other policy goals, far from this specific national security mission. Do you worry that recent expansions of export control applicability may drive key innovation off-shore and exacerbate the erosion of key foundational technologies like chip manufacturing and semiconductor design?

Answer. As Secretary of Commerce, I will be dedicated to working with our partners to harmonize export controls and work together to prevent the proliferation of dual use technologies that can benefit foreign adversaries' military capabilities to the detriment of U.S. national security. U.S. technological competitiveness is a key concern of mine, and my goal is to ensure that our defense of U.S. national security and foreign policy interests does not come at a cost to U.S. long-term leadership in technology and innovation.

Question 24. The Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis recently disclosed that expenditures by foreign direct investors to acquire, establish, or expand U.S. businesses totaled \$194.7 billion in 2019, down 37.7 percent from \$312.5 billion in 2018. This is a worrying trend. What would you like to do to reverse this trend and make America a more attractive place to create or expand new businesses and create jobs for Americans? Is this a part of the Administration's COVID recovery plan?

Answer. It is essential to retain and grow the more than 15 million U.S. jobs directly and indirectly supported by FDI. If confirmed, I will fully support and resource the SelectUSA Program—a group whose work in the last 10 years has supported over \$82 billion in FDI into the U.S. supporting over 100,000 U.S. jobs.

Question 25. The Department of Commerce is charged with strengthening the competitiveness of U.S. industry, promoting trade and investment and ensuring fair trade through the rigorous enforcement of our trade laws and agreements. With that in mind, how will you work to ensure that our trading partners are enforcing existing commitments and how will you work to deter countries from weakening their standards in their own IP regimes?

Answer. The Department of Commerce is committed to ensuring that U.S. trading partners abide by IP-related trade commitments and I assure you that, if I am confirmed, I am committed to using Commerce tools and authorities where warranted to bring this about. I will also be committed to deterring countries from seeking to weaken standards in their IP regimes that effectively protect U.S. intellectual property rights and the interests of U.S. intellectual property rights holders.

Question 26. The Department of Commerce promotes job creation and economic growth, and one way to do that is to work with our trading partners to promote high intellectual property standards internationally. Never have the benefits of strong IP been as relevant as they are today, in how our pharmaceutical companies, for example, have worked so quickly to develop a COVID vaccine. How will you use your role within this administration to ensure that America's highly innovative industries are treated fairly by our trading partners and that a level playing field exists in order to support the millions of American jobs they create?

Answer. I agree that we need the benefits of a strong IP, and that this issue is as relevant today as it has ever been. I will always push for fairer laws and practices for American companies. If confirmed, I will work with the Congress to protect U.S. intellectual property. The Department will address the challenge of protecting U.S. intellectual property from theft and unfair competition by helping our innovators and creators, providing information on how to obtain protection, maintaining high standards for protection in any future trade agreements, using tools at the Department's disposal to ensure our trading partners abide by their international commitments, including those respecting IP protection and enforcement, and participating and defending U.S. intellectual property interests in international forums and standard setting processes.

Question 27. Despite the fact you reportedly resigned in 2011 from Point Judith Capital (PJC), your former investment firm, in 2020 journalists reported that PJC had recently added your name, image and bio back to its website after it had been removed for “for a decade” and PJC listed you as the “General Partner Emerita.” It appears that your former firm was using your name and government position in its marketing. The ethics concerns are obvious and serious.²

- a. When did you formally resign from PJC?
- b. Specifically, what did this resignation entail? Did you step down from the day-to-day decision making at the firm? From that date to present, have you been involved in any decision-making or management decisions of PJC or otherwise given PJC input with respect to any business or investment decisions or strategies?
- c. Have you ever served on PJC’s Board of Directors or on the Board of any related entity, affiliate, business partner, or other entity that is an investor with PJC? If so, what dates did you serve on such Board(s)?
- d. Please describe in detail the steps you took as part of your resignation/separation from PJC as a partner, from management, from the Board, as an investor, and in any other capacity.
- e. Is it true that you have had no involvement in any decision making at PJC since the date you listed in Question 1(a) above?
- f. What financial remuneration have you received from PJC, any related entity, affiliate, business partner or other entity that is an investor with PJC in each year since 2010?
- g. Did you give anyone at PJC either oral or written permission to use your name, bio, and image on the website at any point following the date of your resignation/separation that you identified in Question 1(a) above, including either in 2019 or 2020?
- h. Are there any existing employment, consulting, personal service contracts, or other financial arrangements currently in place between yourself and PJC or any related entity, affiliate, business partner or other entity that is an investor with PJC?

Answer. Following my election as General Treasurer in 2010, I resigned from Point Judith Capital and its investment committee. Prior to assuming office, I placed the interests in Point Judith venture funds that I maintained into a blind trust. Under the blind trust, the trustee made decisions as to when and to what extent the original assets of the trust were to be sold or disposed of and in what investments the proceeds of sale would be reinvested, without any participation in, or knowledge of, such decisions by me or my husband. In order to ensure I adhered to the highest possible ethical standards and in order to avoid even the appearance of any conflict, I sought and received an opinion from the Rhode Island Ethics Commission concerning my prior work at Point Judith Capital and the creation of the blind trust. The Ethics Commission concluded that my resignation from the firm and my creation of the blind trust were appropriate measures to help avoid potential conflicts of interest. Aside from the assets in that blind trust, I have had no involvement with Point Judith, including with any decisions, management, or investments, since that time.

I have also submitted all financial information requested by the Senate Commerce Committee as a part of the committee’s questionnaire, and have filed a publicly available financial disclosure form 278 with the Office of Government Ethics.

Question 28. According to an advisory opinion, you promised the Rhode Island Ethics Commission that you had “taken appropriate measures to distance [yourself] from Point Judith and [your] investments in its funds.” Please describe, in detail, what those measures were.

Answer. See response to Question 27.

Question 29. In addition, there appear to be very serious questions about potential conflicts of interest given you that you named David Martirano, a former PJC colleague of yours, to a board overseeing the University of Rhode Island?

a. Did you seek the advice of any ethics attorneys in the Governor’s office or in State government before making this appointment? If so, with whom did you consult?

b. Did you receive anything in writing, recommending either for or against or otherwise commenting on the propriety of the Martirano appointment either before or after the appointment?

Answer. Mr. Martirano is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a history of advising and supporting his alma mater. His nomination to the Board of

Trustees of the University of Rhode Island, a volunteer position, was approved by the Rhode Island State Senate with an overwhelming, bipartisan majority.

Question 30. In 2014, it was reported that while you were Rhode Island State Treasurer your former firm, PJC, made money from Envista, a company that was hired to work for the Providence Water Supply Board (PWSB), at the same time that your husband was chair of the PWSB.

a. Did you have any conversations with your husband about the PWSB-Envista contract prior to the awarding of the contract?

b. To your knowledge, did the PWSB put this contract out for public bid as reportedly required by law?

Answer. Neither I nor my husband had any role in the awarding of this contract.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. DAN SULLIVAN TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Question 1. If the Administration chooses to pursue the 30x30 concept (blocking 30 percent of the EEZ from extraction by 2030), I have significant concern for the physical or economic displacement that something like this may cause. As the largest seafood producer in the nation, Alaska is home to a myriad of small, rural and Alaska Native communities that are highly fishery dependent. I am concerned for how many people's livelihoods may be affected by this concept and what inequalities this could exacerbate.

- Should the Administration choose to pursue this, how will you consult with stakeholders to ensure for clear 30x30 objectives that aren't destabilizing to small and remote coastal fishing economies?
- Can you commit to me that if 30x30 goes ahead: 1) all stakeholders will be involved in the decision making on areas designated; 2) special consideration will be given for remote, fishery dependent and subsistence communities; 3) clear objectives for designations will be developed, and that a definition will be developed for areas and activities that are allowed in MPAs so that it is consistent with these objectives?

Answer. I recognize the importance of this issue to you and the state of Alaska and agree that robust stakeholder engagement is critical to the success of this process. On January 27, 2021, President Biden released the Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. Sec. 216 of this Executive Order calls for the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretaries of Agriculture and Commerce, the Chair of the Council of Environmental Quality and other relevant agencies, to develop a report within 90 days of its issuance on the steps to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the Nation's lands and waters. The Executive Order calls on Federal agencies to solicit input from State, local, Tribal, and territorial officials, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders in identifying strategies that will encourage broad participation. In addition, section 216 (c) specifically calls on the Secretary of Commerce, through NOAA, to work in the first 60 days to collect input from fishermen, regional ocean councils, scientists, fishery management councils, and other stakeholders on how to make fisheries and protected resources more resilient to climate change.

Question 2. In 2019, more than 79 million international visitors spent \$155 billion in the U.S., supporting nearly 1.2 million American jobs. This made international travel to the U.S. our Nation's largest service sector export and our Nation's second largest industry export overall. Our competitors around the globe have recognized the economic importance of international travel and many have cabinet-level positions overseeing travel and tourism to support and grow the industry. Despite its economic importance in the U.S., we do not have a cabinet level position for travel and tourism.

That's why, in the last Congress, I introduced the Visit America Act, along with Senator Schatz and Senator King. This committee approved that bill with overwhelming support in the last Congress.

- If confirmed as the Secretary of Commerce, will you work to set a national goal of welcoming 116 million annual international visitors by 2028 and commit to work with other Federal agencies on a national strategy to achieve that goal?
- If confirmed, would you support the establishment of an Assistant Secretary for Travel and Tourism?

Answer. If confirmed, I will look at the way that the Department of Commerce engages and addresses the interests of the stakeholders in the travel and tourism sector to ensure that we are both effective and efficient in these efforts, including

whether the establishment of an Assistant Secretary for Travel and Tourism would be the best mechanism to meet these needs.

Question 3. Federal law mandates the NOAA research vessel FAIRWEATHER be homeported in Ketchikan, Alaska. However, the NOAA pier in Ketchikan was condemned in 2008, and since that time the FAIRWEATHER has been homeported outside of Alaska. I have been urging NOAA for years to repair the pier and return the FAIRWEATHER to Ketchikan. To help pay for this project, I included a provision in the 2018 Coast Guard bill that authorized NOAA to accept non-federal funds for the construction of a new pier. My state gave the Department of Commerce \$6.5 million for this project, but that money will only cover the destruction of the existing pier structure. An additional \$11.5 million will be needed to complete construction of the new pier. Congress just appropriated \$43 million for NOAA construction with report language directing NOAA to prioritize infrastructure projects that support research vessels like the FAIRWEATHER pier in Ketchikan. Since my state has put up the majority of the money so far, I'm looking to you to dedicate the necessary funding to see this project through to completion.

- Will you commit to make the Ketchikan pier construction project a funding priority until we have succeeded in permanently returning the FAIRWEATHER to its congressionally mandated homeport of Ketchikan, Alaska?

Answer. I understand the importance of bringing jobs and economic activity to communities to ensure the well-being of its people. Additionally, being from a coastal state, I understand how critical pier construction projects are to the well-being of coastal communities and the important role that NOAA plays in such targeted investments to grow the American economy. If confirmed, I look forward to learning more about the Ketchikan pier construction project and working with you to prioritize this and other infrastructure projects that support research vessels like the NOAA *Fairweather* and the NOAA mission.

Question 4. NOAA has far-reaching authority to ensure that wild commercial fisheries follow sustainable harvest limits. Once fish are harvested, however, NOAA can and should be doing more to help our sustainable and responsible commercial fisheries compete and thrive in seafood markets. Seafood as a commodity does not get the Federal attention or expert promotion of other U.S. food commodities, which essentially undercuts and fails to deliver the value of all our investment in safe, sustainable production.

Specifically, DOC should (1) dedicate staff to understanding seafood as a commodity and promote consumer awareness of our sustainability. (2) It should work with food commodity experts at USDA to effectively integrate knowledge of seafood production and processing into USDA food support programs. (3) It should take USDA's findings of the neonatal and other health benefits of seafood as another benefit to maximize for U.S. fisheries. In short, we need Federal leadership to be accountable for supporting seafood as a commodity. My goal would be to work with you to develop a clear strategy for making sustainable seafood competitiveness a high priority, both within DOC and through interagency efforts.

- If confirmed, will you execute an internal review of DOC programs and competencies on seafood as a commodity, and follow up with me and my staff regarding your findings in this area?

In the global seafood marketplace, the U.S. seafood industry has suffered significant losses in ongoing tariff wars. Essentially shut out of the seafood market in China, a global seafood hub with ever-increasing domestic consumption, U.S. products face steep Chinese tariffs—while seafood producers in other nations do not. U.S. seafood destined for Japan, the EU and UK face steep tariffs, but we import seafood from those countries tariff-free. Russia has an embargo on our seafood, while we import hundreds of millions tariff-free from them. This is shocking and unacceptable.

- As Commerce Secretary, can you commit to further analysis of these seafood trade dynamics at ITA, specifically focusing on the removal of trade barriers and promotion of reciprocity?
- Can you commit to having DOC work with USTR to ensure seafood products receive priority attention as USTR pursues future trade agreements?

Answer. I recognize the importance of ensuring the ability of the U.S. seafood industry to compete fairly in the international marketplace. If confirmed, I will ensure that ITA, NOAA and other relevant DOC entities continue to work closely with USTR to ensure U.S. seafood products receive priority attention. I look forward to learning what other opportunities DOC has to support seafood as a commodity.

Question 5. Fisheries are the number one employer in Alaska and a critical component for food security within the State and across the Nation. I believe that there

is not nearly enough attention paid by Commerce on the role that seafood plays in food security. Currently, many USDA programs exclude fishermen, even as they provide food security to the Nation alongside farmers and ranchers.

- Should policy regarding local foods and communities that are fishery dependent be considered as a part of the Magnuson Stevens Act to ensure that fishery dependent communities are able to maintain access to the commercial fisheries they rely on?
- What steps would you take to factor in pandemic effects and climate change initiatives as we build resilient food systems and work to maintain access to fisheries for communities who provide food to the nation?

Answer. As a coastal Governor, I recognize the importance of the fishing and seafood sector to coastal economies, food security, and the communities that rely on a maritime economy. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NOAA to support the fishing and seafood sectors as they face the impacts of the pandemic and from climate change.

Question 6. Alaska has a longer coastline than the rest of the lower 48 states combined, so as an Alaskan I have a particular interest in combatting marine debris. I have led two bipartisan bills on the issue—Save Our Seas and Save Our Seas 2.0. NOAA has been a close and cooperative partner in these efforts.

The Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, the most comprehensive marine debris legislation ever passed by Congress, was signed into law in December 2020. The Commerce Department, primarily NOAA, has a large role in implementing the marine debris response efforts in SOS 2.0. This role includes establishing the Marine Debris Foundation, a Congressionally chartered private foundation. It also includes recommending candidates for the 12-person Board of Directors.

As NOAA prepares to do establish the Marine Debris Foundation, I would like them to consider establishing the Foundation headquarters in Alaska. In particular, two campuses of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, one in Juneau and one in Kodiak, are strategically located and already house institutes that would provide good synergy to Foundation efforts, although there are other potential Foundation locations in Alaska as well. Additionally, I would like the Board of Directors to have a diversity of views and expertise, and potentially include some Alaskan experts.

- Can you commit to actively reaching out to Alaska-based officials and exploring the possibility of establishing the Marine Debris Foundation in Alaska?
- Additionally, do you agree that Alaskan experts on marine debris would complement the makeup of the Board?

Answer. Thank you for your leadership on addressing marine debris. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NOAA and other experts, including from Alaska, to implement your legislation.

Question 7. The need to fight Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is important, as such foreign fishing practices can damage global fish stocks and fisheries economies. At the same time, it's just as important to be sure that the U.S. understands the true nature of this IUU threat, so that we can develop strategies based on actual risk and evaluated through meaningful metrics. It's tempting to overreact to this threat, seeking expansive and expensive measures that may have only marginal benefit. One example is the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP), a NOAA regulation intended to ensure traceability for fish stocks in U.S. commerce and fight IUU fishing. While SIMP may work for some species, it doesn't work well for Pacific cod, which is harvested sustainably and responsibly in Alaska. While there is little to no risk of IUU for Pacific cod, NOAA is forcing our domestic producers to undertake burdensome, unnecessary, and redundant steps to comply with SIMP—at great cost but for negligible benefit.

- Do you agree with the idea that regulatory efforts, including those to enforce rules against IUU fishing, should be risk-based and reviewed against empirical data and actual performance metrics?
- Do you agree that cost/benefit analyses should help inform SIMP regulatory program design, even if it means acknowledging that not all species warrant SIMP coverage?
- If NOAA pursues changes to SIMP, can you assure me it will work with Coast Guard, USTR, and our domestic fishing and seafood industry to identify and incorporate necessary changes to SIMP?

Answer. As a coastal Governor, I understand the importance of the seafood industry and of ensuring the industry is able to compete with other countries on an even playing field. Should I be confirmed, I will work with you and NOAA to better understand the issues that the Alaskan producers are facing with respect to the Seafood Import Monitoring Program.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Question 1. As a Governor, I'm sure you have had to deal with numerous Federal regulatory hurdles before completing or starting a simple infrastructure project.

- What are your thoughts on the Federal regulatory permitting process?
- Do you believe this process should be more transparent for mayors and state officials?

Answer. Through my experience as a state official both in my capacity as State Treasurer and Governor of Rhode Island, I fully understand the need for transparency in the regulatory process, and, if confirmed, I pledge to work with you to learn more about how we can continue to provide government transparency in the commercial world. I would welcome hearing more of your ideas on this issue.

Question 2. In your testimony, you laid out three policy areas where the DOC "must be a partner to business and their workers." The third area was focused on climate change

- If confirmed, at what point would you reassess climate change-related policies if they hurt businesses or hamper job growth?
- Also, what metrics would you use to assess the costs to businesses and job growth in relation to policies focused on climate change?

Answer. Climate change poses an existential threat to our economic security, and I recognize the benefits of understanding the full impacts of climate change on U.S. businesses. If confirmed, I would look across all the Commerce Department's bureaus to continue providing the tools, data, and expertise to help communities and businesses address the climate crisis and become more resilient in the face of climate change.

Question 3. You clearly believe that climate change should be among the top issues of Department of Commerce.

- Can you please tell this committee what percentage of the Department's budget you would allocate to climate change-related policies?

Answer. Climate change poses an existential threat to our economic security. If confirmed, I would look across all the Commerce Department's bureaus on how to better forecast, understand, and mitigate the impacts of climate change for all Americans. I look forward to working with the Congress on improving and resourcing the Department's tools to address climate change.

Question 4. The biggest obstacle to bringing advanced manufacturing jobs back to states and communities is educating new workers.

- How do you plan to work with businesses, states, and local entities to promote advanced manufacturing education?

Answer. If confirmed, one of my top priorities will be making American workers and businesses competitive. There are many tools that the Commerce Department use to promote manufacturing and good paying jobs through the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), as well as the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Question 5. Currently, the United States faces some profound supply chain problems with microchips in the Auto sector.

- Could you give me a perspective of how you might approach this issue should you be confirmed to be the next Secretary of Commerce?

Answer. The microchip supply chain is a concern across many sectors. I support the strategic efforts of NIST, Manufacturing USA, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, and the Department of Commerce to establish meaningful programs that incentivize competitive U.S. semiconductor manufacturing and contribute to U.S. economic security.

Question 6. Artificial intelligence (AI) technology is proliferating and important considerations are being brought to light about both the benefits of the technology as well as the challenges.

- If confirmed, will you support and prioritize the on-going work by NIST to create a trustworthy AI framework, and how specifically will you engage with allies to encourage their utilization of it?

Answer. If confirmed, I will support, prioritize, and expand upon the on-going work by NIST to create a trustworthy AI framework.

Question 7. Trade talks with China will be continuing under the new administration.

- Do you support the current round of Tariffs? If so, do you plan to make changes to the exemption process?
- How do you plan to confront Chinese attempts to steal intellectual property (ITA/I&A/OSIP input on specific IP aspects inserted below)

Answer. If confirmed, I will encourage the Commerce Department to continue to apply appropriate measures to counter anti-competitive behavior by China that hurts American workers and companies. Regarding intellectual property, Commerce will continue to recognize protection and enforcement of U.S. intellectual property rights as a trade policy priority.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. MIKE LEE TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Question 1. Governor Raimondo, as Commerce Secretary you will be charged with overseeing the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which manages spectrum assignments among Federal government users.

- a. Do you think Federal agencies currently use their spectrum efficiently?

Answer. Federal agencies engage in an enormous number of spectrum-dependent missions, of which many are directed by statute or are critical to the Nation's security, public safety, and well-being, ranging from national defense, law enforcement, air traffic control, space exploration, and severe weather detection and warning. Nevertheless, our Nation continues to drive advances in technology and innovation. If confirmed, it will be a priority to ensure that our Federal agencies can leverage technological advances to ensure that spectrum, a valuable national resource, is used as efficiently as possible.

- b. Should government agencies be immune from oversight of their use of the electromagnetic spectrum?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to a transparent Commerce Department, and I believe our Federal agencies greatly benefit from proper oversight.

- c. I think Congress and Executive Branch agencies need the best available data to identify inefficiencies in both the Commercial and Government contexts. Will you support my legislation, the Government Spectrum Valuation Act, which would require NTIA to calculate the value or the "opportunity costs" associated with Federal spectrum so that we can make more informed decisions?

Answer. NTIA's technical and scientific spectrum analysts and engineers are among the best in the world, and rightly so given the agency's important responsibilities for managing our Nation's Federal spectrum. If confirmed, I would be happy to work with you on your legislation.

Question 2. Governor Raimondo, should NTIA or a Federal agency be able to "veto" an FCC decision to license a band for a commercial purpose, even after those Federal agencies have been able to weigh in on the FCC's review?

Answer. Under the Biden Administration, we would expect the FCC to properly coordinate with NTIA prior to the issuance of any decision implicating the use of Federal spectrum. Such prior coordination hopefully will preclude the issuance of any decision that improperly impacts Federal spectrum use.

- a. How would you handle disputes with the FCC over the licensing of a band for a commercial purpose?

Answer. In the event a dispute between the FCC and the NTIA arises, it is my intention, if confirmed, that such disputes would be resolved prior to the issuance of any FCC decision.

- b. In making spectrum determinations, should NTIA defer to a Federal agency's spectrum findings or should NTIA make their own independent, scientific judgments?

Answer. NTIA's technical and scientific spectrum analysts and engineers are among the best in the world, and rightly so given the agency's important responsibilities for managing our Nation's Federal spectrum. NTIA's analyses and conclusions accordingly should be given extraordinary weight. If NTIA concludes that its own independent, scientific judgments control on a particular matter, then NTIA should exercise such.

- c. In your opinion, is the current FCC/NTIA Memorandum of Understanding sufficient to govern interagency spectrum decision-making?

Answer. If confirmed, I believe it would be appropriate for us to review the current FCC/NTIA Memorandum of Understanding and consider suitable, mutually

agreeable revisions. It is my understanding that the MOU is nearly 20 years old, and it seems appropriate for us to examine lessons learned over these 20 years and see if improvements can be made.

Question 3. Governor Raimondo, do you agree that China poses both economic and security threats to the United States?

a. Why has China had such success attracting U.S. businesses—particularly U.S. manufacturing? And what recommendations will you make to revive U.S. manufacturing?

b. We know U.S. manufacturing costs are generally higher than China as well as other Asian markets. What contributes to these costs? Do U.S. regulations? Do U.S. labor costs? Are there areas of our domestic laws that make the United States an unattractive market for manufacturing?

Answer. China does pose both economic and security threats to the United States, and how we wage competition with China will define this century.

China has pursued industrial policies that have enabled the unfair development of its manufacturing sector, which harms U.S. workers and firms. The Department of Commerce seeks to rebalance the trade relationship by encouraging U.S. manufacturers to expand their exports to China and other markets, thus growing the U.S. workforce and economy as a whole. Chinese economic policies have encouraged excess capacity in several industry sectors and have subsidized a number of critical industries in its pursuit of economic growth to the detriment of U.S. and global interests. I look forward to working with Congress on a broad range of measures, including proposals under consideration in the America LEADS Act and STRATEGIC Act, to boost America's competitiveness in manufacturing, research and development, entrepreneurship, and other areas.

Question 4. Governor Raimondo, Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution clearly gives Congress the authority to “lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises” and “to regulate commerce with foreign nations.” How do you view Congress’ role in levying tariffs and duties on trade, and would you support Congress exercising increased control over the approval process for such measures?

a. When should tariffs be imposed? And how do you weigh the costs of increasing such a trade barrier as opposed to the benefits of free trade?

b. Do you agree that any broad-based increase in U.S. tariffs tend to have the biggest negative impact on low-income American households, which spend a larger share of their budgets on imported shoes, clothing, food, and household goods?

Answer. President Biden is committed to international trade that benefits all Americans and that creates high paying jobs here in the United States. He has asked that we take a step back and review our approach to trade and trade agreements. If confirmed, I commit to working with Congress on tariffs and other trade issues to create a more prosperous America where the benefits of trade are shared equally by all Americans.

Question 5. Governor Raimondo, one of President Biden’s first executive actions was to reverse President Trump’s July memorandum ordering the U.S. Census Bureau to exclude illegal aliens from the census count. Last month, the Supreme Court declined to decide the case because it was not ripe. During oral arguments, it was admitted that the Census Bureau at the time did not know whether the number of illegal aliens would affect apportionment. Do you support President Biden’s decision?

a. If the illegal alien population of a particular state was sufficient enough to affect apportionment, would you at all be concerned that this illegal activity could benefit certain states with additional representation in the House of Representatives over others?

b. Do the American people deserve an answer as to whether the illegal alien population affects the proportion of members in the U.S. House of Representatives?

Answer. I do support President Biden’s Executive Order and believe that everyone should be counted. I agree that the policy of the United States should be that reapportionment be consistent with the Constitution and based on the total number of persons residing in the several states, without regard for immigration status, as well as with the determination that it is essential that the census count must be accurate and based on reliable high-quality data.

Question 6. Governor Raimondo, states oftentimes use Federal money only for simple projects, for compliance reasons, and they tend to use their own funds for difficult, complex projects because the regulatory burden that comes with Federal requirements can raise the cost of the project by 20 percent. This is especially challenging in my home state of Utah where most of Utah’s land is owned by the Fed-

eral government. As governor, you appeared to champion cutting red tape and slashing regulations that were getting in the way of private entrepreneurship and innovation. How would you bring this deregulatory philosophy to the Department of Commerce?

a. Can you identify any regulations or areas of policymaking at the Department you would like to see reduced?

Answer. As Governor of Rhode Island, I helped create an environment where businesses could succeed and create jobs. My state had the highest unemployment rate in the Nation when I entered office and today the economy is thriving with much fewer individuals looking for work. I support cutting regulation if it is unnecessary, but I also believe some regulation is vital to a safe and functioning society.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. RON JOHNSON TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Question 1. What is the Biden administration's plan for the steel and aluminum Section 232 tariffs? If confirmed as Secretary of the Department of Commerce, will you continue the tariffs?

Answer. It is my understanding that Biden Administration will review the steel and aluminum Section 232 tariffs and that the President has the authority to make revisions to the tariffs. While it would be the President's prerogative, if confirmed as Secretary of Commerce, I would expect that the Department of Commerce will provide advice and technical assistance in that review and decision.

Question 2. Will you commit to making all Section 232 investigations publicly available within the time-frame required by law?

Answer. If confirmed, I will review this issue with the Department of Commerce's (Commerce) Office of General Counsel and ensure that Commerce complies with all statutory requirements while protecting the presidential communications privilege and the deliberative process privilege.

Question 3. Is the Biden administration considering any changes to the Section 232 exclusions process? If so, what are those changes?

Answer. It is my understanding that the Department continually reviews the 232 Exclusions Process to identify and implement changes to improve its efficiency and transparency. I further understand that the Department of Commerce's timeliness of exclusion decisions has substantially improved over the past year.

Question 4. As Secretary of Commerce, will you commit to conducting and publicly releasing a complete analysis on the economic effects to downstream industries for every Section 232 investigation?

Answer. If confirmed as Secretary, I will work to ensure that all Section 232 investigations are conducted in accordance with statutory requirements.

Question 5. Will the Biden administration commit to keeping Huawei on the designated entities list and designated a national security threat?

Answer. With respect to Huawei, let me be clear: telecommunications equipment made by untrusted vendors is a threat to the security of the U.S. and our allies. We will ensure that American telecommunications networks do not use equipment from untrusted vendors and will work with allies to secure their telecommunications networks and make investments to expand the production of telecommunications equipment by trusted U.S. and allied companies.

In addition, Huawei's ties to China's military, human right abuses, and theft of intellectual property have rightly been a source of bipartisan concern, regulatory action, and legislation in the United States and among U.S. partners and allies. I also am fully aware of and support the provisions of the FY2020 NDAA and Secure and Trusted Telecommunications Networks Act that contain restrictions on Huawei, and look forward to working closely with the Director of National Intelligence, Secretary of Defense, and Director of the FBI to ensure that administration policies and actions related Huawei reflect their national security concerns and judgements as well.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TODD YOUNG TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Question 1. President Biden promised the American people that he would work with our allies to focus on mutual problems and concerns with respect to trade policy—specifically China's overproduction of steel and aluminum that undermines global metal industries. China's unfair trade actions have had a devastating impact

on American businesses and manufacturers. Like previous administrations, President Biden will have executive authority to impose or remove tariffs. I support holding China accountable in a way that does not hinder the growth of American businesses.

Knowing the lengthy list of unfair trade actions committed by China, can you elaborate on how this administration will hold China accountable?

If confirmed, what strategies or trade tools (like Section 232 actions) are you considering to spur growth, while simultaneously keeping China's illegal practices in check.

Answer. The Department of Commerce (Commerce) confronts unfair trade practices, whether those by China or other countries. Accordingly, if confirmed, I will employ all relevant and appropriate trade enforcement mechanisms to protect U.S. interests while aggressively promoting U.S. exports that benefit American workers and businesses, particularly our small and medium sized businesses.

In addition, if confirmed, Commerce will continue to rigorously enforce the U.S. trade laws, including the AD and CVD laws, to help ensure that U.S. workers, farmers and businesses are not harmed by unfair imports from China. Commerce is committed to helping all U.S. companies, and the Department will work diligently to ensure U.S. companies have the market access and proper protections provided by our trade agreements.

Question 2. The Department of Commerce promotes job creation and economic growth, and one way to do that is to work with our trading partners to promote high intellectual property standards internationally. Never have the benefits of strong IP been as relevant as they are today, in how our biopharmaceutical innovators for example, have worked so quickly to develop a COVID vaccine.

How will you use your role within this administration to ensure that America's highly innovative industries are treated fairly by our trading partners in order to support American jobs?

How will you work to ensure that our trading partners are enforcing existing commitments and deter countries from weakening their standards in their own IP regimes?

Answer. If confirmed as Secretary of Commerce, I am committed to ensuring that U.S. trading partners abide by IP-related trade commitments and to the use of the Department of Commerce (Commerce) tools and authorities where warranted to bring this about.

Question 3. The Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) program within the Department of Commerce is a tool used by industries to facilitate and expedite international trade. Special customs procedures are offered as a public service to help firms conduct international trade related operations in competition with foreign plants. The FTZ program also helps attract offshore activity and encourages retention of domestic activity while assisting state and local economic development efforts.

In your role, how do you envision the role of the FTZ program? Do you believe the FTZ program is an effective way to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and create jobs in the United States?

Answer. If confirmed, I will ensure the effective administration of the FTZ program to ensure that it continues to support investment and jobs while safeguarding against potential negative impacts to American businesses and workers.

Question 4. It is very important to me that we ensure no Hoosier or American is left behind as we adjust to automation, urbanization, and globalization in our dynamic economy. Indiana is the most manufacturing intensive state and as we discussed, your own father lost his manufacturing job to China.

If confirmed, what steps will you take at the Department of Commerce to ensure no Americans are left behind by this economic shift?

Answer. As Governor of Rhode Island and in my personal life, I have seen the impacts on working Americans as our economy has moved away from a manufacturing economy to one based on services. If confirmed, I will ensure that the Department of Commerce continues to provide resources and programs to U.S. businesses and their workers to help them innovate and grow, especially those in regions and communities that have often been left behind.

Question 5. Even in the countries where we have free trade agreements, our companies continue to face trade barriers such as inadequate intellectual property protections, data localization rules, and price controls that violate these agreements. Much of the responsibility of enforcing these agreements and protecting U.S. businesses falls to the Department of Commerce. Like previous administrations, President Biden will have executive authority to impose or remove tariffs. I support holding China accountable in a way that does not hinder the growth of American businesses.

Can you commit that you will be as vigilant in holding our trading partners accountable on behalf of our U.S. exporters as the Department will be in protecting our businesses from imports that violate our laws and trade agreements?

Answer. Yes. In addition to continuing the strong enforcement of U.S. trade laws, including the Antidumping and Countervailing Duties (AD/CVD) laws that protect U.S. firms from unfairly traded imports, if confirmed, I will ensure the Department of Commerce will work diligently to ensure U.S. exporters have the market access and proper protections provided by our trade agreements.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. RICK SCOTT TO
HON. GINA M. RAIMONDO

Question 1. Communist China continues to openly flout U.S. laws and refuse to hold up their ends of trade deals with the United States. They are dead-set on being the dominant world power, and can't be trusted to play fair. And, every single U.S. dollar spent in China supports a regime that jails its people for religious beliefs and denies basic human rights to its citizens.

a. What is your plan to ensure that U.S. citizens and taxpayer dollars are protected from Communist China, and how do you plan to hold them accountable in any future trade commitments?

Answer. China's aggressive and coercive trade policies hurt American workers and businesses. Holding China accountable in future trade commitments requires a whole-of-government approach, in partnership with the U.S. Trade Representative, the Department of State, and other U.S. Government agencies, to ensure that U.S. workers and firms benefit from trade agreements signed with other countries. If confirmed, I will work diligently to ensure U.S. exporters have the market access and proper protections provided by our trade agreements.

Question 2. Seasonal produce farmers, especially in my state of Florida and throughout the southeast, have been badly hurt by unfair trade practices surrounding Mexican produce imports. While this was not addressed in the USMCA, I have worked closely with USTR in the past two years to ensure that this issue is heard and addressed so Florida growers have the chance to succeed.

a. The Trump Administration made it a priority to ensure every deal was fair to our Nation's growers. What is your plan to continue this work so domestic growers can compete on an even playing field?

Answer. If confirmed as Secretary, Commerce will continue its outreach with growers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables on unfair trade practices to enhance their understanding of applicable trade remedy laws and processes and will continue to monitor foreign subsidy practices that have a direct impact on U.S. producers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables.

Question 3. I've been fighting to protect American national security and intellectual property by preventing the U.S. government from purchasing technology, like drones, with American tax dollars. I was glad to see the Department of Commerce add Chinese drone company, DJI to the Entity list because of national security concerns. And earlier this year, former President Trump issued an EO directing U.S. agencies to prioritize removing Chinese-made drones from our government's fleets due to security risks.

a. Can you confirm you plan to keep DJI on the Entity List?

b. What further action can the Commerce Department take against companies like DJI, and any other Chinese-based company, that pose such obvious national security threats?

Answer. I understand that parties are placed on the Entity List generally because they pose a risk to U.S. national security or foreign policy interests. I currently have no reason to believe that entities on that list should not be there. If confirmed, I look forward to a briefing on these entities. I further understand that the Department has an ongoing process in place to identify and review activities of entities to determine whether addition to the Entity List is warranted and that this is an interagency process.

Question 4. Our nation is competing against known adversaries like Communist China and Russia in the space launch industry, and we must put American interests and national security first. I co-sponsored the *American Space Commerce Act* to bolster the domestic space industry and to ensure the U.S. remains a leader in space exploration.

a. What is your plan to bolster the domestic space industry?

Answer. I understand the commercial space industry is growing at an incredible speed—creating jobs, innovating, and fostering public-private partnerships across the country. I know that NOAA and the Office of Space Commerce (OSC) play a key role in working with the commercial space industry. If confirmed, I look forward to learning more about the Office of Space Commerce and to working with Congress to ensure that it is properly resourced and can continue to serve this important function.

