

Before the  
Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs  
United States Senate

**Statement of  
Kevin Wolf,  
Nominee for  
Assistant Secretary for Export Administration  
United States Department of Commerce**

January 21, 2010

Chairman Dodd, Ranking Member Shelby, and Members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee for the position of Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration. I appreciate and am humbled by the confidence President Obama and Secretary Locke have expressed in me. I am hopeful that I can earn your confidence as well. Should I be confirmed, I look forward to working with you and your staff.

Thank you Senator Lincoln for the kind and thoughtful introduction. We have been friends for many years and I have always valued your counsel and guidance. I am delighted that you could be here today.

I also want to thank my wife, Barbara Kanninen, and my two sons Fred and Markus. Without their support and patience, I would not be here today. I also hope that my nomination and, if confirmed, government service will be a valuable lesson and guide to my sons as they think about their futures. Public service is an honor and a privilege.

Mr. Chairman, I recognize the importance of the obligation I will be undertaking if confirmed. The threats we face are diffuse but real – principally terrorism, non-state actors, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the several countries of concern. The Bureau of Industry and Security plays a critical role in countering these threats by regulating the flow of

controlled goods, technology, software, and services. It does so primarily by working closely with the Departments of State, Defense, and Energy, and the intelligence agencies, to evaluate thousands of applications a year. It also works with our international partners to develop controls to help, for example, stem illegal transshipments. This process and these relationships are the front line of defense against the export, reexport, and re-transfer of items to prohibited end-uses, prohibited end-users, and prohibited destinations. I commit to you that if I am confirmed, the Bureau will continue to do the best possible job in advancing U.S. national security, foreign policy and economic objectives by ensuring an effective export control and treaty compliance system, while at the same time facilitating continued U.S. strategic technology leadership.

While national security is the bureau's top priority, it cannot ignore the impact export controls have on U.S. industry. If controls become outdated or are not applied fairly, then they burden the economy without promoting security. Indeed, such controls could reduce our security if they force dual-use and military manufacturing and development to countries that do not have adequate export control systems.

I am well prepared to take on this responsibility. As an attorney with the international law firm of Bryan Cave LLP, I have been working almost exclusively with export control, anti-boycott, and sanctions issues for nearly 16 years. My clients have been primarily small, medium, and large U.S. companies and their foreign affiliates. Most of my work has involved explaining to them how to comply with both the "law and the lore" of the often complex export control and sanctions regulations. If U.S. Government permission was required to engage in a proposed transaction, I would help them apply for and receive the necessary authorizations. I have also handled several high profile and significant export control enforcement cases that have

affected export control law, policy, and compliance practices. I thus have a deep understanding of the culture, concerns, and technologies of the American exporter and how these rules affect U.S. economic and national security interests. As a result of this work and my efforts to promote dialogue between industry and government officials, I have also developed a deep respect for the career staff at the various government agencies who administer the rules. I look forward to working with them, if confirmed.

If I am confirmed, my extensive background in this highly technical area will be helpful in inspiring and leading the Bureau; administering the existing regulations fairly and efficiently; and working with the other agencies involved in the U.S. export control system. My background will also be helpful in crafting and implementing, with the Under Secretary and the other agencies, the details of the significant export control reforms the President and the Secretary have announced are necessary to maintain our national security and economic growth. I look forward to working with Congress during this process. In all of my efforts, I will, if confirmed, be committed to the rule of law, transparency, and advancing the use of modern technology.

Thank you again for this opportunity to appear before you. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have.