

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL J. RIGAS
Nominee to Serve as
Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources
Before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
March 4, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and Members of the committee for the opportunity to appear before you here today. It is an honor to be nominated to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources and I would like to thank President Trump for the opportunity to serve.

I would also like to thank my wife Laura, my parents John and Zoe Rigas, my siblings and other family and friends who are with me here today for their support. And I want to recognize my daughter Mary Elizabeth who is at her first confirmation hearing today, and my nephew Dino, who is at his second.

It is from my parents that my siblings and I were taught the importance of public service as a way to give back to this great country to which they immigrated. My father spent over twenty-five years as a public school teacher, and among the seven children in our family, five are in public service today.

I would also like to thank the Members of the Committee and Committee staff, who took the time to meet with me during this process. I look forward to working with each of you, if confirmed, to address the challenges and opportunities before the State Department today. I would also like to thank the staff of the State Department for their support during this process.

The role for which I have been nominated has enormous responsibility over how the State Department is managed and how its resources are deployed. I hope to bring my over thirty years of management and leadership experience to bear on the challenges facing the Department. I believe my experience in the private sector, as well as my prior federal service at the General Services Administration, the Office of Personnel Management, and the Office of Management and Budget have prepared me for this role.

If confirmed, I look forward to the opportunity to help President Trump, Secretary Rubio and the dedicated career civil and foreign service officers of the State Department carry out the President's bold vision for an America First foreign policy.

Our country faces a number of challenges around the world today, and if confirmed, I will work to ensure the State Department is able to meet those challenges. For my role, I believe this means making sure we have the right people, with the right skills, doing the right things, in the right places.

Who are the right people? The right people are our fellow citizens, members of the Civil and Foreign Service, working around the country and around the world, supported by American contractors and locally-employed staff.

What are the right skills? The right skills include the knowledge our economic and political affairs officers need to understand the American economy and how we can compete and win abroad, the linguistic skills of our foreign service officers, the skills required by consular officers, passport processors, Diplomatic Security and others that allow the State Department to carry out the President's foreign policy to serve American citizens and American interests.

Where are the right places? The right places are wherever we need to bring America's best talent and skills to bear on the challenges we face as a nation, and wherever America's political, economic and national security interests need to be advanced and defended.

Which are the right things? Ensuring that, as Secretary Rubio said "every dollar we spend, every program we fund, and every policy we pursue must be justified with the answer to three simple questions: Does it make America safer? Does it make America stronger? Does it make America more prosperous?"

Every day I will work to ensure we are good stewards of the resources you entrust to the Department of State as we meet the high standards set by the President and the Secretary.

I also want to emphasize that reducing waste, fraud, and abuse will be a key area of focus for me. I know that every dollar we spend, and every program we fund, comes from the labor of a taxpaying American family.

Every \$100 we spend could have been a gift for a family's college fund.

Every \$1,000 we spend could have been the car repairs a family needs for their daily commute.

Every \$10,000 we spend could have been that family's down-payment on their first home.

It is this responsibility that we owe to ordinary Americans – to steward their tax dollars, that I will take with me into this job every day, if confirmed.

In each of my previous professional leadership roles, I believe I left those organizations in a better position than I found them. I have endeavored to make a positive and meaningful impact, both in the public and private sectors, from improving customer service to saving taxpayer dollars.

Each of these successes was possible because of the dedicated men and women I have had the privilege of serving with, who worked together as a team, to achieve a shared vision

of a better workplace for our organization and better service for our customers and taxpayers.

It would be an honor to serve at the State Department, if confirmed, to help advance America's interest around the world, and to continue delivering results for the citizens of this nation.

I want to thank the Committee for considering my nomination and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.