

Testimony of Jennifer Haverkamp
Nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and
Scientific Affairs
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
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Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Udall and distinguished Members of the Committee.

It is a great privilege for me to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES). I am grateful to President Obama and Secretary Kerry for placing their trust in me to help fashion solutions to the profound challenges facing our fragile world and the people it must continue to sustain. I am also grateful for the opportunity to again work with Under Secretary Catherine Novelli, whose dynamic leadership and excellent judgment I had the privilege to observe closely during our years together at USTR.

If confirmed, I very much look forward to working with the Congress, and this Committee in particular, to advance the United States' essential environmental, economic, and national security interests through our global environmental, scientific, and health diplomacy.

I am also deeply grateful to my family, who have supported and inspired me throughout my career in public service and international environmental and trade policy. With me here today are my husband, Jeff Kehne, my father- and mother-in-law, Bruce and Elizabeth Kehne, of Columbia (formerly Pikesville), Maryland, and my niece, Meagan Haverkamp. Our two children very much wish they could be here but our son Gregory, a college junior, is studying mathematics abroad in Budapest and our daughter Adrienne is busy completing her freshman year of college.

My parents, were they still alive, would have been enormously proud to see this day. My father, a college educator who served as a U.S. Navy lieutenant in World War II's Pacific Theater, and my mother, a teacher and homemaker who raised six children, believed deeply in the importance of education, hard work and public service. And I can thank our family's cross-country vacations, which Dad and Mom spent driving us to see our nation's spectacular national parks and historic sites, for sparking my lifelong passion for nature conservation and outdoor recreation.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

I am energized and eager to return to government and put my experience to work advancing American priorities and values. My professional experiences have attracted me to this position and I might even argue this is a role I have been preparing for throughout my career.

I would bring to the position a science background, having majored in biology in college and published field research on the ecology of the North American tallgrass prairie. I have dedicated most of my career to public service, and have worked for the last twenty-two years in the international realm. For most of my ten years at USTR I served as the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Environment and Natural Resources and was a career member of the Senior Executive Service. Before USTR I also held positions of responsibility at the Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Court of Appeals. Though working at Foggy Bottom would be a new experience, over the years I have engaged actively with many of the Department's global environmental, fisheries, and economic issues and gotten to work with many of its outstanding officials.

I believe many aspects of my experience at USTR will have relevant parallels in the work of OES: strengthening the United States domestically through international engagement; finding ways to advance U.S. economic interests while protecting our environmental values; promoting health and prosperity abroad and leveling the playing field for U.S. companies by advancing environmental protections in other countries; and recognizing that often the best way to protect biodiversity is through solutions that accommodate the local population's economic needs – by making the forests and elephants and coral reefs worth more alive than dead.

More recently, I worked in the nonprofit sector to find practical solutions to confront climate change, conserve tropical forests, and advance clean energy. Addressing and preparing for climate change, one of the most profound challenges facing our generation, is a key priority of the President and Secretary Kerry, and cuts across many aspects of OES's work and that of the Department more broadly.

OVERVIEW OF OES

Four decades ago, Congress passed legislation creating OES with broad responsibilities for complex and consequential issues, around the same time Congress addressed increasingly harmful environmental degradation by passing landmark environmental and pollution control legislation. Over the years since those laws were enacted, OES's signature issues of science, technology and innovation; environment; oceans; and health have played increasingly significant roles in strengthening the U.S. economy, advancing our foreign policy objectives, and buttressing our leadership position in the world. More and more, the Department's regional bureaus and embassies consider OES's deep bench of substantive experts a valuable tool in their bilateral diplomacy, as the host countries seek out U.S. scientific and technological cooperation or assistance to address challenges such as wildlife trafficking or resolving conflicts over access

to water resources. For example, OES experts supported efforts by countries along the Nile River Basin to establish a cooperative framework for managing its limited water resources that is expected to contribute to the region's economic development, peace, and security.

As part of the first Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR) in 2010, OES joined with the Department's Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs and the Bureau of Energy Resources to become the "E" family, now under Under Secretary Novelli's leadership. This collaborative relationship was reinforced in the recently released second QDDR. I would welcome the opportunities this structure presents for close collaboration with these offices, a situation resonant with my career experiences in international trade, environmental protection, and clean energy development.

If confirmed by the Senate, my priorities would be interwoven and would encompass the following themes: investments, innovation and inspiration. First, I would like to continue the strong and effective investments Secretary Kerry is making, especially in the areas of oceans, the Arctic, climate change, conservation and health. In each of these areas, investments in long-term policy development; interagency coordination; partnerships with other governments, the private sector, and civil society; and the best analysis will be key to achieving sustained substantive and diplomatic gains.

Second, innovation. Our knowledge of science to educate and inform our partners and the public will guide my thinking and bring an innovative, equitable and cost-effective approach to problem solving. Advances in science and technology have brought our world much closer together and sharpened the need to focus on science diplomacy. To remain the best in the world, our scientists need access to data, research results, and collaboration opportunities with their international counterparts. And science underpins the actions we take and enables the United States to exert innovative leadership in averting catastrophes, whether from mercury contamination, an infectious disease or severe water shortages.

Third, inspiration. I would work to foster and capitalize on the tremendous talent and inspiration of the people in OES to build coalitions and partnerships. The Bureau's professionals have been at the forefront of international efforts to achieve important wins on the conservation, health, climate change, science, space and trade fronts, keeping a steady eye on the prize throughout often contentious, hard-fought negotiations (including some that I have witnessed first-hand).

PRIORITY ISSUES FOR OES

Across the wide range of issues that fall within OES's responsibility, I'd like to elaborate on my key priorities, if confirmed:

Oceans

The oceans, covering almost three-quarters of the planet, are vital resources for food, for transportation, for energy, for tourism. Secretary Kerry has rightly made global oceans policy a top priority of the Department, and if confirmed I look forward to throwing my energy into those efforts.

The key initiatives coming out of last June's successful *Our Ocean* international conference include goals to advance sustainable fisheries, reduce pollution entering the marine environment, stem the increase of ocean acidification, and protect ocean areas. One OES priority in 2015 is carrying out a plan developed by President Obama's Task Force on Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Seafood Fraud. Implementing this plan to combat IUU fishing and seafood fraud will help level the playing field for American fishermen and fishing businesses who play by the rules.

I would also prioritize OES's role in promoting sustainable global fisheries for the world's people who depend on oceans for their food and their livelihoods. Over one billion people worldwide rely on food from the ocean as their primary source of protein. OES is involved in a wide range of negotiations addressing the conservation and management of global fish stocks. The economic benefit to the United States generated by the fisheries subject to these negotiations, or managed by the regional fisheries management organizations within which many such negotiations occur, is estimated at between \$12 – 15 billion each year. These negotiations affect economic interests and stakeholders in virtually all parts of the United States, including the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, Gulf of Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii and the U.S. Pacific territories.

I am grateful the Senate gave its advice and consent to U.S. ratification of four important fisheries treaties last spring, and look forward, if confirmed, to working with Congress, members of the Oceans Caucus and this Committee to implement them. Illustrative of these agreements' contribution to safeguarding U.S. economic interests is the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing. The Port State Measures Agreement combats these harmful fisheries practices through the implementation of robust, globally-consistent requirements of parties, in their capacity as port States, to refuse port entry or access for landing fish, transshipment, packaging, processing, or servicing a ship if the ship is known to have engaged in IUU fishing. The U.S. fishing industry benefits when its competitors are compelled to also follow the rule of law, and I look forward to contributing to these efforts.

Arctic

As part of OES's responsibility for oceans and polar affairs, in recent years the Bureau has deepened its engagement with other Arctic countries, as the region's changing climate and receding ice cover have necessitated greater attention to emerging issues. As more Arctic waters become navigable and fishable, the need escalates for greater Arctic science cooperation,

sustainable fisheries management, and protection of a fragile ecosystem newly opening to shipping, economic development and resource extraction. The Arctic is an excellent example of how U.S. environmental and natural resource conservation interests are inextricably entwined with our economic and national security interests, and must be an integral part of our diplomatic efforts.

In April, the United States took over from Canada the two-year rotating chairmanship of the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum made up of those eight nations with land territory above the Arctic Circle. The Council's priorities during the U.S. chairmanship will focus on stewardship of the Arctic Ocean, improving economic and living conditions for the people of the region, and addressing the effects of climate change in the Arctic. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with Admiral Papp, the Department's Special Representative for the Arctic, as well as with other bureaus and government agencies, to make the best use of this important diplomatic opportunity.

Climate Change

The Department's 2015 Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review focuses on four global policy priorities, including mitigating and adapting to climate change. As Secretary Kerry stated in his March 2015 speech before the Atlantic Council, climate change, like epidemics, poverty, extremism, and nuclear proliferation, is a challenge that respects no borders. He has also spoken frequently of our responsibility to future generations as stewards of the Earth.

If confirmed, I would look forward to supporting the Office of the Special Envoy on Climate Change (SECC), the Department's lead on international negotiations on climate change. Although OES does not lead this work, the Bureau lends its scientific and technical expertise to SECC. One example in particular is the work the Bureau is undertaking with Mexico and Canada to gain broad international support for an agreement to dramatically reduce hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in the atmosphere. The health and economic benefits that would be derived from eliminating 90 billion tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent through 2050 would be enormous. If confirmed, I would lend my professional expertise in the trade, economics and environmental arena to ensure that the support the Bureau provides in confronting climate change is scientifically based, results oriented and of tremendous value to the American people.

Wildlife Trafficking

Wildlife trafficking is a critical conservation concern and a threat to our country's national security. The illegal trade in wildlife has devastating impacts: it fuels corruption and undermines the rule of law, hinders economic development, contributes to the spread of disease, and is pushing some species to the brink of extinction. It is compromising the tourism-based

economies of vulnerable African countries and, in some instances, is being used to finance organized crime, insurgencies, and possibly terrorism.

The toll on iconic species is horrific: the forest elephant populations in Central Africa, for instance, declined by approximately two-thirds between just 2002 and 2012. And while elephants and endangered rhinos slaughtered for their ivory first come to mind, many other species from most continents, including black coral, turtles and tortoises, iguanas, tropical birds, pangolins and primates, are all at risk. The United States is both a link in the transit chain and a final destination for some wildlife and wildlife products; our international efforts focused on reducing both supply and demand must and will be pursued in tandem with domestic actions.

The OES Bureau has an important role to play in carrying out the Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for Combatting Wildlife Trafficking, issued in February. The Plan provides details for how the National Strategy's goals will be achieved and how progress will be measured. OES is leading coordination of two elements of the strategy: the international cooperation and partnerships and demand reduction components. OES is also contributing, through its support for regional wildlife enforcement networks (WENs) worldwide, to the global enforcement element.

The United States' ramped-up efforts are beginning to pay off. We have, notably, reached agreements with China to cooperate in our efforts to combat wildlife trafficking. But there is still an enormous amount of work to be done, and if confirmed I would ensure that the Bureau's resources are deployed effectively in the fight against this global scourge.

Global Health Diplomacy

Before the daunting challenges of Ebola fade in memory, the United States Government needs to incorporate its lessons learned into our broader global health diplomacy, to better inform our nation's responses to the inevitable future pandemics, wherever and whenever they may arise. The Ebola outbreak is but the latest evidence that the world has far to go to be ready to prevent, detect and respond to these global health security threats, and OES is well-positioned to help address this problem. The Global Health Security Agenda, a 44 country effort launched by the United States in 2014, has now gained over 100 new concrete commitments to prevent, detect and rapidly respond to infectious disease threats before they become epidemics like Ebola. The Bureau supports this vital priority by working among these countries and with relevant international organizations to achieve the Agenda's targets. Among other efforts, the Bureau is also working to expand the number of countries able to meet their obligations to the World Health Organization to develop certain core capacities to detect, assess, notify, and report public health emergencies of international concern.

OES plays a critical, though often behind the scenes, role in global health diplomacy. The Bureau works closely with the Department's regional and functional bureaus, special representatives and other U.S. entities (CDC, HHS, DOD, USAID, et al.) with important roles in global health policy. The strong relationships that U.S. expert agencies have developed with their international counterparts are vital to advancing global health. But as we learned from Ebola, in a crisis, to mobilize the global resources needed, and to coordinate the efforts of multiple entities, it takes the high level, cross-cutting diplomacy that the State Department does so well. If confirmed, I would apply myself to finding ways to strengthen the international and interagency coordination on shared global health priorities, and to advancing global pandemic readiness.

Science and Technology – Promoting Innovation and Entrepreneurship

As I mentioned earlier, I consider the deployment of U.S. scientific and technological expertise, and our leadership in innovation, to be an important engine of diplomacy and global development. Equally important is to support the Secretary's efforts to increase the role of science across the work of the State Department.

Innovation and entrepreneurship have been fundamental drivers of U.S. economic growth since our country's founding, and promoting innovation abroad is an especially promising area of U.S. diplomacy. In this vein, OES has developed a Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) initiative, which trains young entrepreneurs. GIST, itself an excellent example of bringing an innovative approach to diplomacy, has to date led to businesses that generated over \$80 million in revenue. The program has worked in 86 emerging economies with over 2.6 million innovators and entrepreneurs around the world, providing training to over 4,500 startups. If confirmed, I would work to grow this program, which gives hope to young entrepreneurs and creates jobs in countries where the lack of economic opportunity can sow unrest and threaten our national security.

CLOSING

I am excited about the prospect of leading a bureau that brings to bear the best analysis to help pioneer scientific and technological breakthroughs. I am excited to tackle the staggering pressures bearing down on natural resources, from the oceans' depths to the ice-capped poles, to the savannas and to outer space, and to help shape foreign diplomacy in these areas for years to come.

If confirmed, I would work hard every day to deserve the extraordinary honor and carry out the profound responsibility thereby conferred upon me.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to your questions.