

Statement of Sean Patrick Maloney
Nominee for Representative of the United States to the Organization for Economic
Cooperation and Development, with rank of Ambassador
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
November 16, 2023

Thank you, Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Hagerty and Members of the Committee - it is an honor to appear as the nominee to be the U.S. Representative to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. I am grateful to President Biden and Secretary Blinken for their confidence in me.

I want to thank my family -- Randy and our children Jesus, Daley, and Essie -- for the love and support that enables me to sit before you today.

We meet today against the backdrop of wars in Europe and the Middle East on a scale not seen in generations, and amid the rise of authoritarian movements around the world. Now more than ever, we need a values-based organization like the OECD to demonstrate the benefits that free market, democratic economies deliver to our citizens.

As President Biden said, "Democracy is hard work. The work of democracy is never finished....It must be protected constantly." That's why the OECD is vital. Its research and convening power provide policy makers the information necessary to guide our nations through challenging times, and it amplifies our common values.

Authoritarian regimes are trying to tell a story that their single-party systems, command economies, and repressive security apparatuses deliver the best outcomes for their people. This story, however, is a dangerous lie. The OECD provides the objective research to expose that fiction and demonstrate the strength and benefits of a free society. As Secretary Blinken said, "The more we and all democracies can show the world that we can deliver – for our people, for each other – the more we can refute the lie that authoritarian countries love to tell."

I come to this role and before this Committee with what I believe is the right mix of knowledge and experience to advocate for the United States and our policies at the OECD.

I am an attorney by training and served as a partner at two global law firms. I worked on the White House senior staff as staff secretary. I served as chief operating officer of a start-up software company focused on risk management in the energy derivatives markets. I advised two New York governors, focusing on improving the state's public higher education system. Most recently, I served five terms as a member of the House of Representatives where I championed legislative initiatives to rebuild our infrastructure, protect veterans, and strengthen our family farms. As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I worked to strengthen our national security. Throughout my tenure, I worked closely with members of both parties to do what was right for the American people. This same approach will enable me

to work with our partners at the OECD, including our friends in labor and the business community, to advance U.S. priorities.

Growing up in a large, Irish-Catholic family, I saw first-hand the important role that veterans and small businesses play in creating good jobs and building a sense of community. When I was a kid, my dad, a disabled Navy vet, sold insurance out of a tiny office above the town library. My mom typed the letters when she wasn't caring for six of us kids or getting us to school or church. Honoring their hard work and sacrifice has always been important to my public service. Families all over America need us to engage with the world to protect the peace and prosperity they depend on. Modern small-town America needs a strong global economy, open/reliable markets, good infrastructure, affordable food and energy prices, and an educated workforce. If confirmed by the Committee, the needs of American families will always be my primary concern at the OECD.

In closing, I can't help but reflect on what my parents would say if they could see me now. They worked so hard to care for my sister and my brothers, to get us through college and give us the opportunities they never had. If confirmed, it will be a great honor to represent and serve the United States at an international organization that fosters freedom, economic opportunity, and prosperity for all.

Thank you and I look forward to answering your questions.