

**U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**Chairman John F. Kerry**  
**Opening Statement for Six Nominees for Ambassadorships to Asia and the Pacific Islands**  
**July 23, 2009**

## **Kerry Opening Statement At Roos, Huntsman Nomination Hearing**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry (D-MA) today delivered opening remarks at the nomination hearing to consider nominees for six Ambassadorships to Asia and the Pacific.

*Chairman Kerry's opening statement as prepared is below:*

It is a pleasure to welcome so many outstanding public servants today—including the six who have been nominated to serve as Ambassadors. Governor Jon Huntsman has been chosen as the next Ambassador to China; John Roos as Ambassador to Japan; Dr. Jon Addleton as Ambassador to Mongolia; Ken Gross as Ambassador to Tajikistan; Ted Taylor as Ambassador to Papua New Guinea; and Martha Campbell as Ambassador to the Marshall Islands.

Between them, these nominees have roughly 120 years of government service, senior management experience in industry, and an enormous amount of institutional knowledge and know-how. You also have several members of your families with you today, and I'd like to welcome them as well – I hope each of you will take a minute to introduce your family to the Committee.

Our bilateral relationships with China and Japan, in particular, have enormous significance across a range of global and regional issues, from climate change to the financial crisis to the situation on the Korean Peninsula. In the years ahead, they will only become more pivotal.

President Obama's choice of Utah Governor Jon Huntsman as Ambassador to China honors our best traditions of bipartisan foreign policy-making. In a previous era, we might have said that nominating the Governor of Utah to serve as ambassador to China meant sending him from one Red State to another! – although they would have been very different *shades* of red. But today's China is a very different China. Governor Huntsman's selection is a great sign that the US-China relationship is above politics.

Governor Huntsman truly is an impressive public servant with a unique set of credentials for his latest task. He is fluent in both Mandarin and Taiwanese; his time as Deputy US Trade Representative and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Asia gave him firsthand knowledge of the trade and economic issues at the center of our relationship. His missionary work in Taiwan and his service as Ambassador to Singapore have left him with a deep knowledge of China and its neighbors. Along the way, Governor Huntsman has helped manage his family's oil business, been active in charitable work, and helped his wife Mary raise seven children—including two adopted daughters from China and India. I am confident that he will do an exceptional job representing our country at a pivotal moment in U.S.-China relations, and I know that Senators McCain, Hatch, and Bennett—all of whom are here to voice their support for Governor Huntsman—all feel the same way.

I urge Governor Huntsman to apply his formidable talent to building America's partnership with China on climate change. This issue belongs at the very center of the US-China relationship, including at next week's Strategic and Economic Dialogue. My own recent travel to China left me convinced that China's leaders are now ready to play a constructive role. We will need creative diplomacy to seize this opportunity, and I hope you will embrace this challenge and take it on as your own.

I also want to take a few moments to talk about the other distinguished member of our first panel. As President Obama's nominee to be our next Ambassador to Japan, John Roos will also be playing a key role in one of America's most important relationships.

Mr. Roos may be less well-known to the public, but he is also an enormously trusted expert and advisor to many, with an outstanding record in his own right. Just look at the public officials who came today to show their support: My old Senate colleagues Bill Bradley and former Vice President Walter Mondale, and former Speaker of the House Tom Foley. The last two served as ambassadors to Japan, and a third ambassador to Japan, Senator Howard Baker, has submitted his testimonial for the record. The presence and endorsement of these remarkable individuals is a powerful statement about what those who know John Roos think of his abilities. Having worked closely with him in 2004, I am grateful for his help and am pleased to add my name to the list of those supporting his nomination.

As the CEO of one of Silicon Valley's top international law firms, Mr. Roos has deep insights into the intersection of science, technology, and the global economy. Having seen firsthand the fruits of US-Japanese cooperation in these areas, he is well positioned to broaden and deepen our collaboration on issues like climate change, energy security, commerce and trade, as well as global health. Leading a global law firm with over 1,500 employees in eight offices from San Francisco to Shanghai, Mr. Roos has demonstrated his skills as a leader, diplomat, and problem-solver. He and his wife Susan have also raised two wonderful kids.

If confirmed, Mr. Roos' many and diverse talents will serve him and our country well in Tokyo. America has no better friend in Asia than Japan. Our treaty relationship and the strength of our extended deterrent has been a linchpin of peace and security in the region for decades, allowing Japan, China, and their neighbors to grow and prosper.

Today, Japan is in the midst of a season of political upheaval and, possibly, of change. But no matter what happens, our commitment to Japan's security will not change. Our relationship is based upon the bedrock of common and enduring interests and values. That is why President Obama's first official working visit was with the Japanese prime minister, and why Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's first official trip abroad, to Asia, began with a stop in Tokyo.

We will work with whatever government emerges after August 30th to maintain peace and stability in Asia. At the same time, the world expects Japan to continue to embrace its global responsibilities as a prominent voice on greening our planet, a generous donor to multilateral institutions and the developing world, a respected leader on nonproliferation, and a highly-regarded practitioner of soft power known around the globe to lead by example.

While most of my comments have focused on our ambassadorial nominees for Japan and China, I in no way intend to minimize the importance of the other ambassadorships represented here today. We are eager to hear their thoughts, and hopeful that we can quickly dispatch them to their important new roles as America's ambassadors.

Unfortunately, I cannot stay. I would like to thank Senator Webb for presiding in my absence. All of us appreciate his thoughtful, rigorous approach as this Committee's chairman for East Asia and Pacific Affairs. I would like to now turn it over to Senator Webb for his introductory remarks.

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