

**Statement of Todd Chapman  
Ambassador-Designate to Ecuador  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
December 1, 2015**

Chairman Corker, Ranking Member Cardin, and Members of the Committee, thank you for this privilege of appearing before you today. I am indeed grateful to President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the trust and confidence they have shown in me through this nomination to be the next United States Ambassador to the Republic of Ecuador.

I would like first to publicly honor and express deep gratitude for my wife Janetta, and my two sons Joshua and Jason, who have faithfully supported me in this 25-year journey in the Foreign Service. They have shared in the joys, excitement, and sometimes the hardships, associated with this service and lifestyle. I also am so grateful for my parents Marilyn and Bob Chapman, who were always my greatest champions and cheerleaders – I am blessed.

During my career, I have represented our great nation in a diverse group of countries, including Bolivia, Costa Rica, Nigeria, Mozambique, and Afghanistan. As an Economic Officer I promoted pro-growth economic policies, implemented development agendas, and advanced commercial partnerships. As Chargé d’Affaires in Mozambique, I led our implementation of over \$500 million in economic, health, and democracy programs. As Deputy Chief of Mission in Brasilia, Brazil from 2011-2014, I helped provide direction to one of our most dynamic bilateral relationships. And I now serve as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, enhancing security partnerships around the world through peacekeeping training, de-mining activities, defense trade, and security assistance.

The United States has long recognized the value and importance of fostering a strong and productive relationship with Ecuador. The United States sent its first representative to Ecuador in 1825 when the U.S. Senate confirmed William Wheelwright to serve as U.S. Consul in Guayaquil, Ecuador. In 1839 the United States and Ecuador signed a Treaty of Peace, Friendship, Navigation, and Commerce. Interestingly, whereas the commercial and navigation clauses were written to expire after 12 years, the treaty stated “in all other parts which relate to peace and friendship, it shall be perpetually and permanently binding on both parties.” If confirmed, I look forward to advancing in concrete ways the long

diplomatic tradition of peace and friendship that has helped define relations between our two countries.

I am confident that working in this spirit we can expand our relations and develop and more fully realize a constructive agenda which advances the real interests of our countries. There is much for our countries to do together.

The United States has long been Ecuador's largest trading partner, with two-way trade approaching \$20 billion in 2014, more than double 2008 totals. I will work diligently, if confirmed, with the government and private sector to expand our economic partnership, eliminate trade barriers to promote increased trade, and encourage investor-friendly practices.

U.S. and Ecuadorian law enforcement and security personnel work cooperatively to counter regional threats posed by transnational crime, illicit narcotics, and trafficking in persons. Further cooperation and information sharing on these issues can result in greater security for citizens of both countries.

Additionally, our people-to-people exchanges are growing rapidly, with education partnerships leading more Americans and Ecuadorians to study in each other's country, thus supporting President Obama's 100,000 Strong Education Exchange Initiative. We are also responding to the Government of Ecuador's request for expanded cooperation in English-teaching with a variety of creative programs.

Tourism both ways is also rising quickly; over 200,000 Americans visited Ecuador last year while 335,000 Ecuadorians travelled to the United States. And the number of Americans residing in Ecuador is approaching 100,000, thanks in part to a growing number of retirees.

This is a time of great dynamism in the Ecuadorian body politic. Ecuadorians of all backgrounds and beliefs are actively debating and expressing a range of views about the country's direction and future -- demonstrable signs of this dynamism. Encouraging such expression, not limiting it, is consistent with the collective commitment to democratic values and human rights which the United States and Ecuador have both pledged to uphold. If confirmed, I will be a strong advocate for these democratic values as I engage with a broad range of Ecuadorians—within national and sub-national governments, civil society, religious institutions, the media and the private sector—to promote social justice and greater prosperity for all Ecuadorians.

Mr. Chairman, Committee Members, if confirmed I commit to doing my very best to represent the very best of the United States of America to the people and Government of Ecuador. I thank you for giving me the honor of appearing before you today, and I look forward to your questions and the beginning of what I sincerely hope will be a continuing partnership and dialogue with this Committee for several years to come. Thank you.