

Testimony of Todd C. Chapman
Nominee for Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Chairman Rubio, Ranking Member Cardin, and Honorable Members of this Committee, thank you for the privilege of appearing before you today as the nominee to serve as the next U.S. Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil. I am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Pompeo for the trust and confidence they have shown in me through this nomination.

Firstly, I would like to recognize and honor my wonderful family. Words are insufficient to capture my love, admiration, and appreciation for my wife Janetta and her commitment to service wherever God has led us around the world. I am also so grateful for our two sons, Joshua and Jason, the dynamic duo, and our amazing daughter-in-law Brooke, for their constant love, support, and encouragement. As a family, we have shared in the adventure, excitement, joys, and sometimes the hardships, associated with this Foreign Service career and lifestyle, and through it all we have been richly blessed.

I come before you today as a career member of the United States Foreign Service, a professional corps of which I am proud to be a part. During my 29 years with the U.S. Government, across five Presidential Administrations, I have served in seven U.S. embassies throughout Latin America, Africa and Asia, as well as multiple assignments here in Washington, DC. From Bolivia to Costa Rica, and Mozambique to Afghanistan, I advanced a wide variety of U.S. interests and collaborated with partner nations to reach shared goals. Most recently, I served as U.S. Ambassador to Ecuador from early 2016 to June of this year and participated in a rewarding time of dynamic renewal in the U.S.-Ecuador bilateral relationship.

Representing our great nation to other great nations is an undertaking I proudly embrace. If confirmed, this would be an opportunity to continue my long personal history with Brazil. In 1974 when just 11 years old, I moved to Sao Paulo with my family, where I completed junior high and high school. After college I returned to Sao Paulo two different times to work in the private sector, and it was there that I took the Foreign Service Exam at the U.S. Consulate

General in Sao Paulo, literally on the dare of a friend. It would then take me over twenty years to return to Brazil as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia from 2011-2014.

With this background, I am confident in the promise and opportunities which an ever-closer U.S.-Brazil relationship can offer to our citizens and to the world. The United States and Brazil have the Western Hemisphere's two largest economies, militaries, populations and territories. We share democratic values, a long history of cooperation, and an over \$100 billion dollar two-way trading relationship. Therefore, when President Trump and President Bolsonaro met in Washington in March this year, they set out an ambitious agenda for the bilateral relationship. In their Joint Statement, the Presidents declared their commitment to, and I quote, "building a new partnership between their two countries focused on increasing prosperity, enhancing security, and promoting democracy, freedom, and national sovereignty."

Implementation of this agenda is underway. Important accomplishments have already been made, including Brazilian ratification of a joint Technology Safeguards Agreement, expansion of trade opportunities for our private sectors, visa free-travel for U.S. citizens heading to Brazil and a pilot program for Brazil to join the Global Entry Program to facilitate participants' travel to the U.S. In the important area of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, our two governments worked together with private sector partners to launch the \$100 million dollar Althelia Biodiversity Fund Brazil aimed at supporting investment in sustainable development projects in the Amazon in partnership with local communities.

Brazil's global influence and aspirations are frequently fully consistent with U.S. national security objectives. Working together on shared concerns---such as restoring democratic rule in Venezuela, countering the malevolent influences of Cuba, and supporting the democratic transition in Bolivia---exemplifies how the U.S.-Brazil partnership, already extensive and broad, is ripe for growth.

In such an expansive relationship with a consequential partner like Brazil, there will always be areas that require broader dialogue. I commit to advancing respectful dialogues on the economy, the environment, human rights and irregular migration, with the goal of improving mutual understandings and reaching beneficial outcomes.

If confirmed, I will also be honored to protect the interests of the over 240,000 U.S. citizens who reside in Brazil, the 500,000 U.S. citizens who visit Brazil each year, and to serve as Chief of Mission with the over 1,400 American and Brazilian professionals who comprise Mission Brazil and are working effectively to develop and operationalize this bilateral agenda.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, Committee Members, if confirmed, I commit to doing my very best to represent the very best of the United States of America to the Government and people of Brazil. I would look forward to working collaboratively with the distinguished members of this committee, the U.S. Congress, and your professional staff to achieve U.S. policy goals in Brazil and to enhance the strong and enduring partnership between these two great democracies.

I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and I welcome your questions and observations. Thank you.