

Statement by Edward F. Crawford
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
April 11, 2019

Good morning Senator Johnson, Good morning Senator Shaheen and other Members of the Foreign Relations Committee:

I am honored to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the next U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland. I am grateful to the President for his nomination and to Secretary Pompeo for his trust and confidence. If confirmed by the Senate, I pledge to work closely with the members of the Foreign Relations Committee to advance U.S. interests and values in Ireland.

At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wife, Mary (from high school), as well as my son, Matthew, my daughter, Debbie, and my grandchildren, Colin, Catherine, and Claire (better known as the three bears) for their love and support.

A few thoughts on Ireland.

The connection between the people of the United States and the people of Ireland is undeniable. Over 30 million Americans identify themselves as having Irish heritage, more than 10 percent of the U.S. population.

The United States was built on the hard work and sacrifice of immigrants, like the Irish, who have made significant contributions to this country and continue to serve as an example for all of us today. From the time of our nation's founding, thousands of Irish men and women have come to America, and have had a lasting impact on the history and development of our country.

Ireland is also one of our most reliable trading partners. More than \$138 Billion (and growing) in two-way trade in goods and services passes between the United States and Ireland each year.

While adhering to its long-standing policy of military neutrality, Ireland continues to be a valuable partner in maintaining global security and protecting American interests abroad. I applaud our cooperation with the Irish government on strengthening Ireland's cybersecurity capacity to help safeguard U.S. companies and citizens located in Ireland. If confirmed, I will do everything I can to continue making progress in this area.

The United States and Ireland have worked together throughout our histories to resolve conflicts and promote peace and prosperity. The United States views proudly its role in the events leading to the Good Friday Agreement of 1998, ending years of strife and bloodshed in Northern Ireland. If confirmed, I would maintain the United States' firm commitment to the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

In the 1960's while attending John Carroll University night school, I started my first commercial effort, a company called Cleveland Steel Container which manufactured five-gallon steel pails. The continuation of that enterprise today has grown in revenues to approximately \$1.9 billion annually.

Park-Ohio currently operates manufacturing facilities in North America, Canada, Mexico, the Euro Zone, China, India and other countries.

We employ over 7,500 individuals. This is not a high-tech business. We manufacture products for trucks, autos, washing machines, aero-space and many other production line components. We are very proud of our relationships with our factory employees.

For example, in Conneaut, Ohio, we employ 300 factory workers. Conneaut has one McDonald's, no movie theater and a dirt track for auto racing. The population of Conneaut is approximately 8,200. The average time in service for our production line employees is over 15 years. This is a partnership with families. They come to the plant each day and punch a time clock. They leave work each day and go home to their families. Our family loves the feeling of commitment on both sides.

During the 58 years of building the company I learned a great deal about people, problems and opportunities. If I am confirmed, I will bring this experience, knowledge and enthusiasm to the Post of the U.S. Ambassador to Ireland to strengthen the U.S.—Irish relationship.

Senators, my mother left Ireland for America in 1927 and my father in 1925. Both came through Ellis Island as Irish immigrants. They would be very proud of what we have accomplished as a family and our need to serve America.