

**Statement of Kathleen A. Doherty**  
**Nominee for Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**July 22, 2015**

Chairman Johnson, Senator Shaheen, members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today to be considered for the position of the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus. I am grateful to be nominated by President Obama and appreciate Secretary Kerry's confidence in me. If confirmed, I pledge to work with all of you to advance in Cyprus the fundamental U.S. interest in a Europe whole, free, prosperous, and at peace.

I'm pleased to be joined today by my partner, Mike Nelson, and my brother Bob Doherty, who along with the other members of my family have supported me all these years. Today is part of a journey that started when I first traveled overseas at thirteen to visit Ireland, where my father was born, and where I first became curious about the world beyond. As a first generation American on my father's side, I am proud to represent the United States and the hope and promise of this country.

This is a hopeful time for Cyprus, a country situated at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. With the resumption of settlement talks in May and the strong commitment of both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, there is a real window of opportunity to forge a just and lasting settlement. If confirmed, I would do all that I could to support efforts by courageous and visionary leaders, ordinary people, and the United Nations to reach the promise of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. A reunified Cyprus would provide for a more prosperous future for all Cypriots. Such an example would resonate well beyond the island, strengthening Greece-Turkey relations and links across the Eastern Mediterranean. It would serve as an inspiration for others who wish to define a new future after a painful past. A reunified Cyprus would also enhance regional security and boost NATO-EU cooperation.

The Republic of Cyprus is a valued friend and important strategic partner. If confirmed, I am committed to boosting our bilateral relationship to promote peace, security, and prosperity in the region and beyond. The United States cooperates closely with Cyprus on a range of priorities including counterterrorism, maritime security, and law enforcement. Cyprus' hosting of the Joint OPCW-UN Mission to dismantle Syria's chemical weapons, participation in the Counter-ISIL Coalition,

as well as its regional efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction demonstrate its commitment to international security.

U.S.-led investment in Cyprus, increasing nearly seven-fold over the last two years, is a concrete example of our growing economic ties. Cyprus is supportive of our efforts to conclude the U.S.-EU Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP). T-TIP can help develop the island's growing professional services sector and provide new opportunities for entrepreneurship. Cyprus' economy is turning the corner, earlier than projected after the country's acute fiscal crisis in 2012. As the sacrifices required by fiscal consolidation and structural reforms are beginning to bear fruit, Cyprus' economic reform programs will help ensure that this positive growth continues. At the same time, progress on a settlement could have a positive impact on the entire island's economy. Study after study has shown a Cyprus settlement would create opportunities for greater trade and investment, bringing tangible benefits to all Cypriots. If confirmed, I would draw upon my years of experience creating opportunities in the areas of entrepreneurship, innovation and commerce – particularly for women and young people – and push this vision forward.

The recent discovery of natural gas resources in the Eastern Mediterranean, including in Cyprus' offshore waters by U.S. company Noble Energy in 2011, has expanded possibilities for increasing regional energy security through diversification of resources, routes, and suppliers. We have emphasized our support of the Republic of Cyprus' right to develop hydrocarbon resources in its Exclusive Economic Zone. We also believe the resources should be shared equitably between both communities within the context of an overall settlement. Hydrocarbons have the potential, if managed correctly, to be a catalyst for increased cooperation as well as enhanced regional stability, security, and prosperity. Energy potential should serve as an incentive to a Cyprus settlement. If confirmed, I would seek to build upon this potential.

During his historic visit to Cyprus in May 2014, Vice President Biden emphasized that a reunified Cyprus would expand the possibilities for strengthening our partnership. If confirmed, I will be accredited to one government, the Republic of Cyprus. That said, I will support both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in their efforts to pursue reconciliation and reunification.

If confirmed, I believe my experience will prepare me well for the challenges and opportunities ahead. Throughout my twenty-five year career, I have worked closely with Members of Congress, the U.S. military, and nearly all U.S.

Government agencies and Departments, and know how we can work together to support the goal of a whole and prosperous Cyprus. While serving in Washington as Deputy Assistant Secretary in our Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs and at posts overseas, I have strengthened U.S.-European relations, promoting trade, investment, economic opportunity and innovation. I have been a strong advocate for the diversification of energy supplies, and for the U.S. and European Union to work together to address global and regional energy challenges. I have championed efforts that enhanced European security, working through NATO and the EU, and while serving as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, I supported the peace process in Northern Ireland, which gave hope to long divided communities.

If confirmed, I will dedicate myself to strengthening the bonds between the United States and Cyprus, and working with Members of Congress, partners in the U.S. Government and elsewhere, and with the talented staff of the Embassy in Nicosia to further our goals in Cyprus and support the promise of a better future for all Cypriots.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to be here with you today. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.