

**Statement of Kenneth I. Juster**  
**Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of India**  
**Submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**October 3, 2017**

Chairman Corker, Ranking Member Cardin, and Members of the Committee,

It is a great honor to be with you today as President Trump's nominee to be the United States Ambassador to the Republic of India. I would like to express my gratitude to the President and the Secretary of State for the confidence and trust they have placed in me to take on this important position. If confirmed, I look forward to working with each of you to advance our strategic partnership with India – a relationship that is critical to promoting U.S. national security and economic interests.

I am very pleased to be joined this morning by my mother, Muriel Juster; my cousins, Emily Randall and Cindy Camp; and several close friends. Other members of my family were unable to attend, but I greatly appreciate their support during this process. I regret that my father, the late Howard Juster, is not here with us. He would have been very proud to see me testify before this Committee.

My father was an architect and avid photographer. In 1966, when I was 11 years old, my mother and he traveled to India. I still have vivid memories of the many photographs he took there. That trip sparked my interest in this vast and diverse country and its people.

In more recent years, I have been fortunate to be involved in a range of matters relating to India, in both government and the private sector. The remarkable evolution of U.S.-India relations truly has been a bipartisan undertaking, and has benefited from strong leadership and support in the Congress. Building on the trip that President Clinton took to India in March 2000, President Bush and Prime Minister Vajpayee committed in November 2001 to transform the relationship between our two countries – the world's oldest and largest democracies.

As Under Secretary of Commerce during the first term of the Bush Administration, I worked closely with officials in Washington, D.C. and New Delhi on this effort. With India's Foreign Secretary, we formed the High Technology Cooperation Group to identify and remove tariff and non-tariff barriers to commerce in this sector. Working with my colleagues in the U.S. Government, we also developed an initiative known as the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership. This initiative provided a roadmap for expanded cooperation with India, through a series of reciprocal steps, in civil nuclear activities, civil space programs, and high-technology trade – three of the most contentious issues in our relationship at the time. The success of this effort laid the foundation for the historic civil nuclear agreement and our broader partnership.

When I returned to the private sector in 2005, first as an executive at a technology company and then as a partner at an investment firm, I remained involved in a variety of U.S.-India business and policy issues. This included serving on the Boards of the Asia Foundation, the U.S.-India Business Council, and the University of Pennsylvania's Center for the Advanced Study of India,

as well as participating periodically in the Aspen Institute's U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue and other relevant forums. If confirmed, I believe that my familiarity with government officials, business people, and academic and think tank leaders in both countries will enhance my ability to represent the United States in India and advance our bilateral relationship.

From my perspective, the first priority of a U.S. ambassador is to promote U.S. national interests and be an exemplary representative of the U.S. Government and the American people. If confirmed, I will join with the dedicated men and women who work at our Mission in India in protecting our homeland and advancing the interests and welfare of the nearly 800,000 American citizens present in India at any given time – either living there or visiting. I also will strive to ensure the safety and well-being of our Mission employees and their families.

The Trump Administration fully appreciates India's long and rich history. India and the United States share common values and a commitment to democracy, pluralism, and the rule of law. The Administration views India as a leading power and a true friend, whose influence internationally is important and growing. A strong India and a strong U.S.-India relationship are in America's interest. India's role in the Indo-Pacific region and globally will be critical to international security and economic growth over the course of this century. The Administration will build on the excellent meeting that President Trump and Prime Minister Modi had in June of this year in seeking to deepen our partnership for the benefit of the people of both countries, and in the interest of shaping a freer, more secure, and more prosperous world.

There are many elements of our effort to expand and enhance the strategic partnership between our two countries and advance common objectives. One key pillar is to deepen defense and security cooperation, building on the U.S. recognition of India as a Major Defense Partner. Together, our countries seek to ensure freedom of navigation, overflight, and commerce, and advance a rules-based, democratic order throughout the Indo-Pacific Region.

If confirmed, I also look forward to engaging my counterparts in India to strengthen our cooperation on the most pressing challenges to regional security and global peace, from the DPRK's destabilizing pursuit of nuclear weapons to the growing threat that all forms of terrorism pose to our people. In addition, I will make it a priority to work closely with New Delhi to promote security and stability in Afghanistan, where India already has provided billions of dollars in economic support and is a longstanding partner for peace.

In the economic sphere, Prime Minister Modi has undertaken important reforms, including the landmark Goods and Services Tax. His government has liberalized foreign direct investment in several sectors and is working to improve the ease of doing business. If confirmed, I look forward to identifying ways that the United States can be a partner in these reform efforts, to the mutual benefit of our business communities and our citizens.

India's 1.3 billion people and its rapidly expanding middle class represent a significant market opportunity for U.S. goods and services. As the Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs during the first five months of the Administration, I appreciate the imperative to expand free, fair, and balanced trade between the United States and India. We will pursue that goal by working with the Government of India to improve and expedite

regulatory processes; ensure that technology and innovation are fostered and protected; and increase market access for U.S. firms.

A critical element in realizing the potential of our economic relationship will to elevate all aspects of our energy ties, so that more natural gas, clean coal, crude oil, and renewable resources and technologies are available to fuel India's economic growth and inclusive development, as well as to support U.S. jobs.

In addition, we will seek to strengthen our collaboration in a number of other important areas, including human rights and trafficking in persons, law enforcement, science and technology, space, health, and agriculture.

As we move forward in all of these efforts, an essential foundation of our bilateral relationship is our people-to-people ties. There are nearly four million Indian Americans living in the United States – a community that exemplifies the spirit of innovation, entrepreneurship, and strong values that our two countries share. There also are over 165,000 Indian students attending U.S. educational institutions. Collectively, they contribute more than \$5 billion to the U.S. economy and support tens of thousands of American jobs. If confirmed, I will continue to emphasize our public diplomacy efforts in India, including our educational and cultural exchanges. These and other outreach activities are central to strengthening our partnership with the Indian government and its people, and advancing our foreign policy goals.

Chairman Corker, Ranking Member Cardin, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to working with you and other Members of Congress on the important role that you play in the U.S.-India relationship. I welcome your questions.