

**Statement of Georgette Mosbacher
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Poland
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
June 5, 2018**

Chairman Isakson, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of the Committee:

I would like to thank President Trump for nominating me as Ambassador to Poland. With the Senate's confirmation, serving as Ambassador to Poland will be the most solemn responsibility of my life.

Joining me is my family: my sisters Lyn and Melody, and my brother George.

I regret that our 93-year-old mother, Dorothy Paulsin, could not be here. Mother passed away 10 weeks ago. We grew up in the Midwestern steel town of Highland, Indiana. My father was killed by a drunk driver when I was only seven years old. As the oldest child of four, I did my best to help Mom raise my siblings. I spent a lot of time with my maternal grandmother, Mary Bell, in East Chicago, Indiana. Grandma worked the midnight shift as a switcher for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. Her mother -- my great-grandma -- taught me to count, and how to do my first budget. From all three women, I learned the value of a dollar and the meaning of grit.

In East Chicago, Indiana, I was surrounded by Polish culture. The Chicago region had the greatest concentration of Poles outside Poland. Everywhere I turned, I saw these hard-working immigrants — deeply faithful, industrious people.

I am an example of the American Dream. I was the first in my family to attend college, working three jobs to pay tuition. Later, I built two branded global companies. While expanding sales worldwide, I learned about export-import law, regulations, and international supply chains — and gained an appreciation for predictability, transparency, security, and the rule of law. All of my products were manufactured in New Jersey — made in the U.S.A. — and then exported all over the world.

For over a decade I have been a member and served on the board of Business Executives for National Security. I have traveled on behalf of BENS's missions for the State and Defense Departments, to Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Djibouti, the Baltics, and the Balkans, to name just a few, and experienced firsthand the logistical complexity and strategic planning that our military is dealing with every day to keep us free and safe.

While serving on the board of the Atlantic Council, I had the good fortune to engage regularly with the foreign policy community across Administrations, the private sector, and public policy

organizations. This experience further shaped my appreciation for the commitment and engagement required to make the trans-Atlantic relationship central to our nation's security.

In 2016 I was honored to be unanimously confirmed by this Senate to serve on the U.S. Commission for Public Diplomacy. That service has shown me that the tools of public diplomacy can be leveraged to enhance economic opportunity, trade, security, and of course bilateral relations through educational and cultural exchanges.

When President Trump traveled to Warsaw last year, he emphasized that the United States benefits from a strong Poland. This means a Poland that is sovereign and independent with strong constitutional freedoms; a Poland that is militarily secure; and a Poland that is economically robust and resilient. I'd like to address each of those three areas.

First, we recognize the sacrifices the Poles have made "for our freedom and yours" as they have fought in solidarity with us and have died in support of our shared values and our shared history.

I am aware of recent concerns about respect for democratic institutions in Poland — freedom of speech, the independence of the judiciary, and the rule of law — and I am ready to voice our strong support for these essential freedoms if I am confirmed as ambassador.

Second, Poland is an important military leader in NATO. We appreciate that it is one of the few NATO countries that meets, and plans to exceed, its obligation of spending 2.0 percent of GDP on defense, and is well into a \$40 billion modernization of its armed forces.

A more secure Poland means a more energy-independent Poland. Helping the Polish people diversify their energy choices provides an opportunity for innovative American energy companies. Poland and its neighbors should not be held hostage to a single supplier of energy.

Third and finally, Poland is a great economic success story: it has tripled its GDP per capita since 1990, enjoying the strongest economic growth of any nation in Central and Eastern Europe. My top priority if confirmed will be to encourage American businesses to expand trade between our nations. We must increase our exports to Poland's 38 million consumers — to create American jobs back home, and to ensure American companies are treated fairly on a level playing field.

If confirmed, I will work to preserve and strengthen our bilateral political, economic, and security collaboration, including on matters of NATO, Ukraine, Russia, the Community of Democracies, the Three Seas Initiative and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

A Poland that guarantees the freedom of its people, provides for its security and that of its allies, and creates economic growth and opportunity for all will be the most effective ally the United States has in the region. A strong Poland means a stronger America.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.