

**Testimony of Suzan G. LeVine**  
**Ambassador-Designate to Switzerland and Liechtenstein**  
**Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
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Chairman Markey, Ranking Member Barrasso, and distinguished Members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the next United States Ambassador to both the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

I am profoundly humbled by this opportunity and thank President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the trust and confidence that they are placing in me with this nomination.

I would also like to thank Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell for their generous remarks on my behalf. I have known both for many years and hope that I can live up to the very high standards that each sets as an incredible public servant – whether as the ultimate mom in tennis shoes or as a tech exec doing good.

If I may, I would like to take just a few moments to introduce you to some of the very special members of my family who are here today. First, I'd like to introduce you to my mother, Phyllis Davidson – who grew up not far from here and whose parents, my grandmother and grandfather, a WWI veteran and co-founder of the American Legion, are buried in Arlington Cemetery. Next, I'd like to introduce you to my husband, Eric LeVine and my wonderful children, Sidney and Talia. It is through their love and support that I am here today. Lastly, I'd like to mention that I'm sure my father, Maurice Davidson, may he rest in peace, who proudly served as an Army physician in Vietnam, is with us today in our hearts. Patriotism and service to our country were paramount to him and he instilled those values in me and my siblings throughout his life.

Over the last twenty-plus years, be it as a leader in business, both as a Director at Microsoft and a Vice President at Expedia, or as an intern at NASA, or as a volunteer and leader in the non-profit sector, or as a mother, I have pursued opportunities and overcome challenges. I have led teams, built partnerships, organized communities, grown businesses, created and cultivated social media spaces, and conducted youth outreach. Above all, I have achieved results. It is my great hope that the Senate will permit me the opportunity to use my skills and experiences to further our vital relationship with Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

My dual degrees in English and Engineering reflect my unique approach to leadership – I am a translator and a connector. Throughout my career I have focused my efforts on my passions, including technology, innovation, education, travel, early learning, and social responsibility – all core sectors of excellence for both Switzerland and Liechtenstein, and key issues of partnership in our bilateral relationship.

As two of the oldest federal republics in the world, the United States and Switzerland are close friends and partners. Our relationship is deep and strong, covering a wide range of important areas of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, from human rights to regional stability. We share many of the same values.

The United States and Switzerland partner together in many areas, including in venues such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), of which Switzerland is the Chairman-in-Office in 2014, the NATO Partnership for Peace, multiple UN bodies, and international financial institutions. Switzerland's neutrality allows it to play a unique mediating role, which can help address key U.S. foreign policy priorities.

As in any mature relationship, sometimes we have different perspectives on how to address certain issues. The issue of bank secrecy and tax evasion was a difficult one, but the U.S. and Swiss governments have reached important agreements in this area, and we are turning the page. Liechtenstein has also made great progress in the sharing of banking information.

I believe the mission for the job to which I have been nominated is to foster bilateral relationships with both Switzerland and Liechtenstein that enhance prosperity, stability, and security in our respective nations and around the world. Thus, if confirmed, I would leverage my experience and knowledge to execute three key strategies:

- 1) Further grow our economic ties
- 2) Expand global security and development collaboration
- 3) Increase awareness and appreciation for each other's culture, values, and policies.

From an economic standpoint, the growth we pursue will start from a strong base. Both Switzerland and Liechtenstein have an outsized impact in economic matters. Switzerland is one of the top foreign direct investors in the United States, ahead of countries many times its size, and Swiss companies account for hundreds of

thousands of American jobs. Switzerland is also a top 20 export market for American goods and services. Liechtenstein, even with a population of about 36,000, has key companies that account for thousands of U.S. jobs. If confirmed, I would make it a priority to tap into the rich potential for even more foreign direct investment and exports with these two partners.

The second strategy I want to highlight, if confirmed, will be to expand our global security and development collaboration. I firmly believe in the value of partnering on difficult issues. Throughout my career, I have built and stewarded so-called “1+1 = 3 partnerships” – where we tackled bigger opportunities and challenges than we could have alone and, at the same time, reduced redundancy and cost. This type of collaboration is critical when it comes to both global security and development, and the United States, Switzerland and Liechtenstein have done some outstanding work together on this front. For example, along with the Swiss we are founding members of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, which aims to stop terrorism before it begins. In addition, with Switzerland serving as the 2014 Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, we have a great opportunity to work together for security, prosperity, and human rights in Europe and Eurasia. If confirmed, I would explore how we might better leverage and expand U.S.-Swiss and U.S.-Liechtenstein partnerships, and other collaborations, to further our shared global priorities.

Finally, if confirmed, I hope to work to increase awareness and appreciation of culture, values and policies between our nations. For example, as Americans, among our many values, we pursue fairness, protect our environment, and respect diversity. On the policy front, we are working with the Swiss government on a number of foreign policy priorities, both in Switzerland’s backyard and further afield. Within Europe, Switzerland is a major troop contributor to the NATO-led Kosovo Force. Beyond Europe, Switzerland has provided over \$70 million in humanitarian assistance for the people affected by the Syrian crisis, and helped to mediate among the factions in Mali. If confirmed, I will work with the highly skilled team at Embassy Bern to ensure awareness of these and other policies and values.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, the Swiss hold neutrality as a key value and policy. I got a taste of this fact in 1988 when, on the first day of my first trip to Switzerland, I was stunned to meet my hometown rabbi. He was there to escort a group of students on their trip from Poland to Israel; since these two countries did not share diplomatic ties at that time, Switzerland was the way-station. This experience

powerfully imbued me with a sense of just how important the Swiss are in building bridges.

While the political landscape has changed dramatically since 1988, Switzerland's role as mediator and neutral broker has not. If anything, Switzerland has taken its global position to a whole new level. For example, in January alone, Switzerland took over the Chairmanship-in-Office of the OSCE; hosted the Geneva 2 talks on Syria; and hosted the World Economic Forum in Davos. They are actively showing that neutrality does not mean hands off.

Fundamentally, if confirmed, I believe my key responsibility is to ensure that our global priorities are articulated to both the Swiss and Liechtenstein governments and their people so that we may partner wherever possible on key global challenges.

In all of these areas and endeavors, if confirmed, I will rely on our Embassy and its staff, both local and American. I have heard great things about the staff, and if confirmed I will seek to engender a true team spirit at the Embassy.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee – thank you, again, for inviting me to testify before you today. I feel honored to be nominated and, if confirmed, I commit to serving with integrity, and to proudly and humbly apply my professional, non-profit, and community experience to this position. I look forward to collaborating with this esteemed Committee, and the Congress, to foster our relationships between the United States and the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein in the global diplomatic, development and economic spheres.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.