

Statement of Douglas Hickey
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Finland
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
March 3, 2022

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the privilege of appearing before you today. I am honored to be the nominee for U.S. Ambassador to Finland, and I am deeply grateful to President Biden for the confidence he has placed in me.

I would like to thank my family and friends for their support. I would like to thank my wife Dawn and my children, Bob, Kristen, Cole, Parker, and Lyra for all their love and support.

The United States and Finland share close security, economic, geopolitical, and cultural ties. Like the United States, Finland is committed to safeguarding democracy, protecting fundamental and human rights, combatting climate change, promoting technological and economic advancement, and ensuring peace and security throughout the world. I firmly believe we can continue to accomplish many American policy objectives with the support of our deep transatlantic cooperation with Finland. If confirmed, the following are the top priorities I would seek to advance:

First, my top priority is always to ensure the safety and security of American citizens. I would work with Finnish officials and Embassy Helsinki to ensure Americans visiting or living in Finland were afforded all protections and rights to which they are entitled. I would do my utmost to protect the safety and well-being of Embassy personnel and their family members. I would also have an open-door policy to gather ideas on how to be the most effective team, how to keep our embassy community morale high, and how to best serve the American people at home and abroad.

A second priority, if confirmed, will be to further deepen our defense coordination with the Finns. As a NATO Enhanced Opportunities Partner, Finland has contributed much to our shared global defense objectives. The Finnish government announced in December that it would purchase 64 new F-35 fighter jets, which will deepen U.S.-Finland security and defense ties for decades to come. And as a fellow and like-minded member of the Arctic Council, Finland is an instrumental partner in shaping Arctic policy – a region of the world garnering increasing attention for its economic, security, and geopolitical prospects.

A third priority would be to advance American economic interests in Finland, particularly by growing and empowering bilateral business ties. The United States and Finland work well together as two of the world's leading technology innovators, with collaboration at all levels of the private sector, academia, civil society, and government. We should continue this work with Finland to open new sources of economic opportunity in areas such as green technologies, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and 5 and 6G. The United States should build upon our shared economic interests and capabilities with Finland, not only to contribute to increased job creation and economic prosperity for both nations, but also because our shared values and

technological prowess will provide a stronger defense against adversaries who may seek to compromise intellectual property or sensitive infrastructure.

Lastly if confirmed, I would work to advance joint efforts by the United States and Finland to address global challenges. While the Finnish and American people share a love of democracy and freedom, there are others around the globe seeking to impose their authoritarian beliefs. Russia's premeditated, unprovoked, and unjustified attack on Ukraine is one example. These adversaries spread disinformation, disrupt peace, imprison dissenters, support violence, and suppress fundamental rights. With Finland, I believe the United States has a trusted partner in defending democratic values and countering the tactics of authoritarian regimes and malicious non-state actors.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with Finland on the unprecedented challenges facing our world, such as fighting climate change, safeguarding the rules-based international order, countering corruption, and combating COVID-19 and preventing future pandemics. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that the U.S. relationship with Finland is best equipped to address these and the challenges that come.

Let me conclude by saying that it would be an honor to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Finland. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your questions.