

Statement of Marc Nathanson
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway
Submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
April 7, 2022

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished Members of the Committee, I am honored to be here today as the President's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway.

Thank you, Senator Padilla, for the gracious introduction and your long friendship.

I am deeply grateful to President Biden and Secretary Blinken for their trust and confidence. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with Congress to build upon the strong partnership between the United States and Norway.

I would like to acknowledge my family, including my eight grandchildren. My commitment to public service is driven by the love of my family, who motivate me to make our country and the world a better place for future generations. My two sons, Adam and David, are representing my family today.

My eternal gratitude goes to the love of my life, Jane Fallek Nathanson, whom I met on the first day of college. I would not be here today without Jane's unwavering support for the last 54 years.

I spent my professional career in communications and founded my own company, Falcon Cable TV in 1975, which served communities both domestically and internationally. I later entered government service as a member of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Agency for Global Media and became its first Chair. I served seven years in this Senate-confirmed post, under both President Clinton and President Bush. In addition, the Secretary of State appointed me to serve on the Board of Governors of the East-West Center.

After government service, I joined the board of the National Democratic Institute and became Vice Chair under Madeleine Albright's leadership. Secretary Albright was a close friend. We all celebrate her legacy in foreign policy as we mourn her passing.

Throughout my career and in government service, I believe I have developed the leadership and diplomatic skills required to represent the United States effectively.

Norway is a trusted Ally and close friend of the United States. If confirmed, I will work closely with our talented team at Embassy Oslo to strengthen our great relationship with Norway. Three priorities will guide our work:

First, enhancing our shared security. If confirmed, my top priority will be the safety and security of Americans in Norway, including Mission personnel. Furthermore, I will promote our shared security interests. As a founding NATO Ally, Norway has stood with the United States to address a range of emerging threats, including Russia's unprovoked war of choice against Ukraine and threats to European security in general. Norway plays a critical role patrolling and

protecting NATO's northern flank. If confirmed, I will support Norway's efforts to strengthen its defense capabilities.

Second, upholding global norms and addressing global challenges. The United States and Norway partner to strengthen democracy, promote human rights, and confront many of the world's most pressing issues. As Arctic states, the U.S. and Norway can together ensure the region remains stable and conflict free, governed by the rules-based international order despite actions by China and other competitors. A key tenet of Norway's foreign policy is humanitarian and development assistance. If confirmed, I will work tirelessly to uphold these important norms in the Arctic and globally.

Third, increasing energy, environment, trade and investment cooperation with a focus on the green transition. Our two countries have longstanding economic ties. Norway is the second largest natural gas exporter to Europe. Norwegian investment in offshore wind near New York will power up to two million homes and is an example of cooperation in energy transition. If confirmed, I will work to promote shared prosperity and combat the climate crisis.

I recognize the honor and responsibilities bestowed upon me by this nomination. If confirmed, I will do my best to uphold the trust that you and the American people are placing in me.

Thank you again for this opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to your questions.