

Statement of Eric Michael Garcetti
U.S. Ambassador-Nominee to the Republic of India
Submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
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Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member Risch, and Members of the Committee,

I am honored to appear before you today as President Biden's nominee to be the Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of India. I would like to thank President Biden for his trust and for this amazing opportunity to serve our country.

Few nations are more vital to the future of American security and prosperity than India. If confirmed, I look forward to building on the work of my predecessors to elevate our partnership to new heights.

I have committed my life to service — as a teacher, a naval officer, and a public servant.

All of my work reflects values my parents instilled in me at a young age: to be a proud American with a heart for service who is always engaged with the world. My parents, Gil and Sukey Garcetti, are here today; they first brought me to India as a teenager and taught me how deeply we are connected to people everywhere on this planet — no matter where they live, what language they speak, how much money they have, or how they worship God.

Two people not with me in person today are always the best part of my day: my wife Amy Elaine Wakeland, a woman from Indiana whom I met when we were studying together as Rhodes Scholars who never stops fighting for women and children, and Maya, our beautiful and incredible daughter, who just turned 10 years old yesterday. Maya is watching this hearing with her mother as she gets ready for school. Good luck with your science test, sweetie—Daddy loves you and is so proud of you!

In 1992, the year I graduated from college after studying Hindi and Indian cultural and religious history, U.S.-India ties languished in the shadow of Cold War era mistrust. Annual trade stood at a paltry \$2 billion, defense trade was zero, and military interoperability was non-existent. The very idea of a U.S.-India strategic partnership would have been deemed laughable.

Today, the fundamental nature of that strategic partnership is firmly ingrained in both Washington and New Delhi. 20 years ago President Biden — then Chairman of this esteemed committee — called for a new and ambitious vision of U.S.-India ties. Thanks to successive administrations—Democratic and Republican—and the bipartisan work of this Congress, that strong new chapter is upon us.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, bilateral trade is expected to reach new heights and if confirmed, I intend to champion an ambitious economic partnership with India that reduces market access barriers and bolsters fair trade and creates good jobs for the American middle class.

India is situated in a tough neighborhood. If confirmed, I intend to double-down on our efforts to strengthen India's capacity to secure its borders, defend its sovereignty, and deter aggression — through information sharing, counterterrorism coordination, joint freedom of navigation patrols and military exercises (which I have participated in as a naval officer alongside my Indian

counterparts), and sales of our best defense technologies in order to realize the full potential of our Major Defense Partnership.

As Mayor, I have chaired C40 — a global network of mayors from the world's largest cities — to confront global climate change and to share the experience of Los Angeles, which is on track to be powered by 100 percent renewable energy by 2035. If confirmed, I will work closely with India to support a similarly bold approach to promoting green energy through the International Solar Alliance and through the Agenda 2030 Climate and Clean Energy Partnership.

The bedrock of our partnership are the human ties that connect our nations, embodied by the four million strong Indian-American diaspora that strengthens our nation and the nearly two hundred thousand Indian students and tens of thousands of Indian professionals who contribute to our economy.

In addition, respect for human rights and strong democratic institutions are key elements of our strategic partnership and values enshrined in our constitutions, and if confirmed, I will engage closely and regularly with the Indian government on these issues.

I acknowledge the weight and honor of responsibility as Chief of Mission for the welfare of hundreds of U.S. and thousands of locally employed staff in Embassy New Delhi and our four Consulates in India, in addition to the approximately 950,000 U.S. citizens residing in India. If confirmed, there will be no higher priority for me than the security of our Mission team and of U.S. citizens in India.

Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member Risch, thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony. I recognize, respect and relish the role of Congress in advancing our relationship with India and I can't wait to regularly engage with both of you and with all members and their staffs on all matters of mutual concern. If confirmed, I look forward to serving in India as it celebrates 75 years of independence and to shepherding an incredible next chapter in the U.S.-India partnership.