

DAVID JACOBSON
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO CANADA
SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
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Thank you Chairman Kaufman, Ranking Member Barrasso, and other distinguished Members of the Committee for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am grateful for the opportunity to appear before you, to answer your questions as best I can, and to seek your support for my nomination.

I would also like to thank Senator Durbin for his kind and generous introduction. He has set the example on the role of a public servant. I am honored to know him, and I hope I will be able to live up to his standard of service to the American people.

Please allow me to introduce my wife Julie who is here today. Without her love and her support for the last 22 years I would not be here.

I am grateful to the President for nominating me to be the Ambassador of the United States to Canada and for sending my name to the Senate for consideration. And I am grateful for the full support of Secretary Clinton.

As I sit here today, I cannot help but think back to a family vacation I took when I was seven years old. We were going to leave the country for the first time. My parents, my two sisters, and I packed up our blue Buick to drive from Chicago to Niagara Falls. Our route took us to Detroit and we drove over the Ambassador Bridge. Despite my mother's protestations that he would get us all killed, my father stopped the car in the middle of the bridge at the border. I will never forget my parents reaching from the front seat in Canada back into the United States and my sisters and I reaching forward into Canada. If anyone had said to that seven year old in the middle of that back seat on the Ambassador Bridge that some day he would be appearing before this great Committee as the nominee of the President to be Ambassador to Canada, I can assure you that he would not have believed it.

The depth and breadth of our relationship with Canada surpasses that with any other country. As President Obama said during his visit to Canada in February 2009, "I came to Canada on my first trip as President to underscore

the closeness and importance of the relationship between our two nations, and to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to work with friends and partners to meet the common challenges of our time... the very success of our friendship throughout history demands that we renew and deepen our cooperation here in the 21st century.”

The United States and Canada have the largest trading relationship of any two countries in the history of the world. More than \$1.6 billion in goods cross the border each day. The value of U.S. – Canada trade at a single crossing, the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit, is greater than our total trade with Japan. Canada is the leading export market for 36 out of the 50 U.S. states. Nearly 80 per cent of Canada’s exports go to the United States.

As with trade in general, the U.S.-Canadian energy relationship is the largest in the world, with all types of energy flowing freely in both directions across the border.

Canada is a stalwart partner of the United States in defense and international issues. Canada is a founding member of NATO and our partner in the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). There are more than 2,800 Canadian troops serving bravely in Afghanistan. Their service – and their sacrifice – should be honored and respected by all Americans. Canada is also a major donor to Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan, and Iraq. We share core democratic values and a commitment to work on behalf of peace, prosperity, and human rights around the world.

Perhaps most importantly, our two countries are joined together by the web of family, friendships, and other ties between our citizens, many of whom travel between the two countries every day. I expect that many of those here today have such personal or professional ties.

However, even such a deep and complex relationship always needs to be nurtured and encouraged. The sheer size and magnitude of the U.S.-Canada relationship means that there will be economic, regulatory, and environmental issues. However, the strength of our relationship is defined not by the absence of such occasional disagreement, but by the ability to move forward in our relations while resolving to address areas of concern on a continuing basis. If confirmed, I will work to further improve understanding and cooperation between these two great nations.

I believe my background and my experience will help me in that endeavor, if confirmed. I was a lawyer in a large firm in Chicago. I was recognized as an effective advocate with the ability to develop creative solutions to difficult problems. I learned about the substantive issues that form the core of our relationship with Canada: commerce, energy and the environment, the promotion of human rights and the strengthening of democratic institutions around the world, and safeguarding our mutual security.

In overseeing large – sometimes extremely large – pieces of litigation and in directing activities in my firm, I developed the management skills which will be key to executing my responsibilities as Ambassador if I am confirmed. I have learned to try to view the world from the perspective of people sitting across the table from me. Not necessarily to agree with their points of view but to seek common ground where it might exist. I believe those qualities are important in a diplomat. If confirmed, I hope to use them to improve the relationship between our two great countries.

In addition to my work, I was a leader in fostering the development of technology and the technology community in Chicago. I reached out to friends in Europe to bring what was, at the time, the world's largest technology networking organization to the United States. I have been involved in many activities to further the interests of my community and my country which have given so much to me and to my family.

Since January 20, I have had the honor of working in the White House as a Special Assistant to the President helping to fill positions in the Obama Administration. During that time, I have developed an understanding of how this administration works as well as strong relationships with leaders in the White House and across our government. If confirmed, I hope to put this knowledge and these relationships to work to further our nation's goals.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, for the opportunity to appear before you. It would be the honor of a lifetime to be able to represent my President and my country as the Ambassador to Canada.

I look forward to answering your questions.