

S. HRG. 119-253

**NOMINATION OF PAUL DABBAR,
NOMINEE TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES SENATE
ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

MAY 1, 2025

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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MELISSA PORTER, *Deputy Staff Director*

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**NOMINATION OF PAUL DABBAR,
NOMINEE TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

**U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION,
*Washington, DC.***

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:06 a.m., in room SR-253, Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. Ted Cruz, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Cruz [presiding], Moran, Sullivan, Schmitt, Moreno, Cantwell, Klobuchar, Peters, Baldwin, Rosen, Luján, Kim, and Blunt Rochester.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. TED CRUZ,
U.S. SENATOR FROM TEXAS**

The CHAIRMAN. Good morning.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation will come to order.

Today we will consider the nomination of Paul Dabbar to serve as Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

Mr. Dabbar, congratulations on your nomination. We look forward to hearing about your professional experience and your vision for supporting and complementing Secretary Lutnick's leadership of the Department.

As Deputy Secretary, Mr. Dabbar will serve as the second in command at the Department. He will oversee daily operations and help tackle a wide array of issues, from fixing Biden's failed BEAD program, which connected not a single American to high-speed internet, to countering climate alarmism at NOAA. These are not small tasks.

Mr. Dabbar has an impressive background. After graduating from the United States Naval Academy he served as a nuclear submarine officer for six years.

He then earned an MBA from Columbia University before going to work for JPMorgan for nearly two decades. There, he oversaw more than \$400 billion in energy investments spanning oil, gas, nuclear, solar, wind, and geothermal energy.

During the first Trump administration, Mr. Dabbar was unanimously confirmed as the fourth under secretary for science at the Department of Energy.

In that role he managed a workforce of tens of thousands of personnel across more than 100 sites with a \$14.5 billion budget.

He oversaw the majority of U.S. national laboratories at a time when they faced a growing threat of Chinese espionage.

He implemented the National Quantum Initiative Act and sought to spur the development of next-generation energy storage technologies.

Following his tenure at the Department of Energy, Mr. Dabbar co-founded Bohr Quantum Technology, a pioneering cybersecurity company developing quantum networking systems.

If confirmed, he will draw on his technical expertise and entrepreneurial experience to tackle complex challenges at the intersection of science, government, and industry.

I will note that he has the explicit support of five former Cabinet secretaries from both Republican and Democratic administrations.

This nomination comes as the Department of Commerce works to preserve access to the Gulf for oil and gas exploration, expand commercial access to mid-band spectrum, and maintain U.S. leadership in artificial intelligence, quantum, commercial space, and advanced manufacturing.

It also comes amid a public trade battle. President Trump is rightfully standing up to China and working to reshore industries vital to our national security.

But we should be mindful that long-term tariffs on manufacturing inputs and other goods would function as a de facto tax increase on small businesses and the American middle class.

My hope is that the Commerce Department leadership will work alongside the President to steer a course that addresses our supply chain vulnerabilities and restores dignity to the American worker, but aims for freer and fairer trade with our allies, not simply protectionism.

There are two paths before us, one that uses tariffs strategically to secure better trade deals, incentivizing our trading partners to lower the tariffs they charge to American goods and services in exchange for lowering our own tariffs.

The other path is a path that locks in place high tariffs indefinitely. I very much hope we are on the former path and not the latter.

Just this week Secretary Lutnick has touted an international trade deal now in its final stages. The President has also signed a proclamation offering relief to the auto industry following the results of a Commerce Department Section 232 investigation into the import of automobiles and automobile parts.

These are signals the administration wants to use its trade authorities to secure better deals for the American people.

I am confident that Mr. Dabbar, an experienced dealmaker himself, can assist in this effort. I hope he will outline for us today the path that he plans to take under the direction of the President.

I will now turn to Ranking Member Cantwell for her opening remarks.

**STATEMENT OF HON. MARIA CANTWELL,
U.S. SENATOR FROM WASHINGTON**

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome, Mr. Dabbar. Congratulations on your nomination.

Welcome to your wife and welcome to one of those energy secretaries here supporting you, Mr. Brouillette. I enjoyed working with both of you at the Department of Energy.

I know this isn't the first time you have testified before a Senate hearing, and having been confirmed for the Under Secretary of Science at the Department of Energy we worked together in the implementation of not just the National Quantum Initiative but your role in Hanford cleanup, and I very much appreciate that.

The Deputy Secretary of Commerce plays a significant role in shaping the U.S. economy and if confirmed you will be a representative for the day-to-day operations of the department in assisting American businesses and promoting policies that help us create economic growth.

But your nomination comes at a time when we have had a significant period of disruption and chaos at the agency. Under Secretary Lutnick's leadership I believe we have had a series of alarming decisions and actions that are damaging the opportunities for economic growth.

First and foremost, the Minority Business Development Agency, a 56-year-old agency that Congress permanently authorized in 2021, has been dismantled.

For those unfamiliar with the MBDA, I believe my colleague, Senator Wicker, was quite accurate when he said, I quote, "The Minority Business Development Agency has been a lifeline for many minority businesses, owners, and entrepreneurs seeking to grow their businesses," end quote.

And, indeed, Secretary Lutnick testified before this committee that he would not support dismantling of the Minority Business Development Agency, which helped create and retain approximately 23,000 jobs in Fiscal Year 2024 alone.

This is about capacity building. This is about capacity building within a community that may not necessarily have the same access to capital, may not have the same parameters, and this agency has been quite successful.

But within two months of his confirmation he has fired all of its employees, canceled all of its grants, and even the sign that once marked the MBDA office at the Department of Commerce building has been pulled down under his watch.

Meanwhile, the department continues to slash essential workers at NOAA with approximately 2,500 employees of the 12-person workforce fired or otherwise departing since the start of this administration.

These staffing shortages are already impacting NOAA's core functions including reduced and suspended weather balloon launches at many of our weather forecast offices, and I cannot tell you how important this is for us particularly related to fire season.

These NOAA weather activities are giving us essential data about how best to prepare for fire season, and further cuts are expected in the coming weeks.

On top of that, the Trump administration is pursuing a 2026 budget proposal that would reduce NOAA's budget by more than 27 percent including a 75 percent cut to the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, the closures of all its weather climate labs, and an 85 percent cut to the Office of Space Commerce.

I can tell you this, Mr. Dabbar, as somebody who ran a science organization that we are going to hold this administration accountable for the cuts in science. It is not acceptable.

Innovation is the way we are going to grow our economy. It is the way we are going to protect our industries that exist today.

At the same time, the administration is calling for major reorganizations of NOAA including moving out the National Fisheries marine service to the Department of Interior.

I am not sure why. The most important management resource we have for our fisheries, having our science management system, we would give up to the Department of Interior.

I am particularly shocked to see this proposal, given that Mr. Lutnick promised to me during his confirmation hearing that, "I have no interest in separating NOAA," and that breaking up NOAA, "is not on my agenda." What changed?

What is equally concerning is the Office of Management and Budget proposal to eliminate the Economic Development Administration entirely.

I believe this would jeopardize important decisions that continue to help us grow our tech hubs and important investments that keep growing our economy across the United States.

So I could go on and on about tariffs. While I appreciate many of the things that the Chairman just mentioned in his tariff statement, yes, I probably would be more comfortable with you leading our tariff charge than the current secretary.

But I can tell you this. Tariffs are hurting small businesses today. They are significantly reducing our economic growth.

They are significantly constraining opportunities and people just may not even be in business by the time these deals are done.

And I know that some people think that might be the price to pay. I do not. I do not believe in that view of an American economy where we lead on alliance building and we lead on moving forward on economic opportunities by opening up markets, particularly big opportunities that I think we have in front of us.

So that is to say I very much appreciate, Mr. Dabbar, your leadership in the past. I am outlining the big challenges I see in front of you in stabilizing the agency's core mission.

I look forward to hearing the answers to our questions today. But, again, welcome to you and congratulations on your nomination.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Dabbar, you are now recognized for your opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF PAUL DABBAR, NOMINEE TO BE DEPUTY
SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

Mr. DABBAR. Thank you, Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and members of the Committee. It is an honor to be here today.

I am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Lutnick for their trust and confidence in me for this nomination to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

Joining me today is my wonderful wife of 25 years Andrea. Our children, Katie and Will, are watching from their efforts at work

and college. I greatly appreciate their support when I was Under Secretary for Science.

Also here today is my former boss, former Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette and friends of my time in government, the Naval Academy, and the private sector.

If my nomination is confirmed by this body it will be the fourth time I will have sworn to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, the first time when I was 17 years old after my appointment by former Senator Don Nichols for Induction Day at the Naval Academy.

My second time was when I was commissioned a Navy ensign. I joined the Nuclear Submarine Force and had the honor to serve in many operations including deployment to the Arctic with the Arctic Research Laboratory with a team supported by NOAA, and my third time occurred when I was sworn in as Under Secretary.

Since my time in the Navy my career has spanned investments, trade, science, and technology. I recently helped startup two technology companies, one in energy tech and another, a spinout of Cal Tech in quantum.

I stayed involved in public policy testifying regularly before Congress, serving as a fellow at Columbia University on policy and a contributor at the *Wall Street Journal*, the Hoover Institution, and elsewhere.

During President Trump's first term, I was honored to serve as the fourth Under Secretary of Science at the Department of Energy managing research and operations at the National Laboratories.

During my tenure, I worked with many members on driving America forward on science and technology, and I led our robust efforts in environmental cleanup efforts from our nuclear weapons program.

I was the lead on the exascale computing program, which led to four number-one global computers including the first use of the GPU chip, and many of them were completed ahead of schedule and under budget.

I also led the National Quantum Initiative. I broke through decades of long issues in environmental management at Hanford and elsewhere, and completed large nuclear projects including several ahead of schedule and under budget.

As Under Secretary, I worked extensively with the Department of Commerce bureaus including USPTO, NIST, NOAA, and BIS.

Earlier in my career I was a senior executive at JPMorgan leading several hundred billion dollars of global investment and helping lead our global—our efforts in global commodities trading including energy and critical materials.

I am excited to join the Commerce Department and my experience will well fit me for this position. This is an exciting time for the sectors covered by the department. U.S. commercial competitiveness and trade are clearly at the front and center of many issues.

Additionally, science and technology efforts including AI, semiconductors, quantum, intellectual property, the Blue Economy, and technology security are also at the forefront.

My significant experience across the scope of the Department will enable me to manage and lead its various bureaus from experience

and trade in the private sector, my maritime service in NOAA, DOE technology security efforts in BIS, my science and technology background in NIST, starting up a quantum communications company at NTIA, just to name a few, and I have deep experience in managing large government efforts.

And, finally, I have the persistence to get things done and take on challenges of any magnitude. For example, I have completed a 146-mile Ironman triathlon and I am one of the few people who have been to both the geographic North and South Poles.

I was honored and humbled to receive wide support from the Senate from my last confirmation including being confirmed by unanimous consent.

Today, I humbly ask for every member's vote and support for my nomination. Thank you, and I look forward to answering your questions.

[The prepared statement and biographical information of Mr. Dabbar follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF PAUL M. DABBAR, NOMINEE TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Thank you Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and members of the Committee. It is an honor to be here today. I am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Lutnick for their trust and confidence in me with this nomination to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

Joining me today is my wonderful wife of twenty-five years, Andrea. Our children Katie and Will are watching from their efforts at work and college. I greatly appreciate their past support when I was Under Secretary for Science. Also here today is my former boss, former Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette, and friends from my time in government, the Naval Academy, and the private sector.

If my nomination is confirmed by this body, it will be the fourth time that I will have the opportunity to swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution. The first time I was seventeen years old, after my appointment by former Senator Don Nichols, at Induction Day at the Naval Academy. The second time was when I was commissioned a Navy ensign. I joined the nuclear submarine force and had the honor to serve in many operations, including a deployment to the Arctic with the Arctic Research Laboratory, a team supported by NOAA. And my third time occurred when I was sworn in as Under Secretary.

Since my time in the Navy, my career has spanned investments, trade, science and technology. Recently, I helped start two technology companies, one in energy tech, and the other a spin out of Caltech in quantum. I stayed involved in public policy by regularly testifying before Congress, serving as a visiting fellow at Columbia University, and as a contributor at the Wall Street Journal, the Hoover Institution and elsewhere.

During President Trump's first term, I was honored to serve as the fourth Under Secretary for Science at the Department of Energy, managing research and operations at the National Labs. During my tenure, I worked with many members on driving America forward on science & technology, and I led our robust environmental clean-up efforts from our nuclear weapons program. I was the lead on the exascale computing program, which led to four #1 global supercomputers, including ones that were completed ahead of schedule and under budget. I also led the National Quantum Initiative. And I broke through decades long issues on environmental management at Hanford and elsewhere, completing large nuclear projects, including several ahead of schedule and under budget. As Under Secretary, I worked extensively with Department of Commerce bureaus, including USPTO, NIST, NOAA and BIS.

Earlier in my career, I was a senior executive at J.P.Morgan, leading several hundred billion dollars in global investment, and helped lead efforts in global commodities trading in energy and critical minerals.

I am excited to join the Commerce Department, and my experience is well fit for this position. This is a very exciting time in the sectors covered by the Department. U.S. commercial competitiveness and trade are clearly front and center issues. Additionally, the science and technology efforts, including AI, semiconductors, quantum,

intellectual property, the Blue Economy, and technology security are also at the forefront.

My significant experience across the scope of Department will enable me to help manage and lead its varied bureaus. From my experience in trade in the private sector, my maritime service and NOAA, my DOE technology security efforts and BIS, my science & technology background and NIST, and starting up a quantum communications company and NTIA, just to name a few. And I have deep experience at managing large government efforts. All of these experiences have prepared me to take on this role.

And finally, I have the persistence to get things done and take on challenges of any magnitude. For example, I completed a 140.6 mile Ironman triathlon, and I am one of the few people ever who have been to both the geographic North and South Poles.

I was honored and humbled to receive wide support from the Senate for my last confirmation, including being confirmed by unanimous consent. Today, I humbly ask for every member's consideration and support for my nomination. Thank you and I look forward to answering your questions.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used): Paul M. Dabbar.
2. Position to which nominated: Deputy Secretary, Department of Commerce.
3. Date of Nomination: March 11, 2025.
4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

Residence: Information not released to the public.
Office: Information not provided.
5. Date and Place of Birth: July 8, 1967; Passaic, NJ.
6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) or domestic partner, and the names and ages of your children (including step-children and children by a previous marriage).

Spouse: Andrea Dabbar. Employment: None.
Children: Katie Dabbar, 23. William Dabbar, 21.
7. List all college and graduate schools attended, whether or not you were granted a degree by the institution. Provide the name of the institution, the dates attended, the degree received, and the date of the degree.

U.S. Naval Academy, 1985–1989, B.S., May 1989
Columbia University, 1994–1996, M.B.A., May 1996
8. List all post-undergraduate employment, including the job title, name of employer, and inclusive dates of employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.
 - U.S. Navy, nuclear submarine officer, Lieutenant. 1989–1994
 - J.P.Morgan, energy mergers & acquisitions, investment banking, commodities trading. 1996–2017
 - Department of Energy, Member of the Advisory Board, Environmental Management program. 2005–2017
 - Department of Energy, Under Secretary for Science. 2017–2021
 - Bohr Quantum Technology, Co-founder and CEO. 2021–2025
 - Power & Digital Infrastructure I & II, board member, 2021–2024
 - Dominion Energy, board member, 2023 to current
 - AirJoule Technologies, board member. 2024 to current
 - Warburg Pincus, advisor. 2021 to current
 - Transition Equity Partners, advisor. 2023 to current
 - Columbia University, Center on Global Energy Policy, Distinguished Visiting Fellow & Adjunct Senior Research Scholar. 2021 to current.
 - Advisor, Department of Defense. 2023 to current
10. Attach a copy of your résumé.
Attached.

11. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above after 18 years of age.

- U.S. Naval Academy, Midshipman. 1985–1989
- U.S. Navy submarine officer. 1989–1994
- Department of Energy Environmental Management Advisory Board, board member. 2005–2017

12. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution.

- U.S. Navy, nuclear submarine officer, Lieutenant. 1989–1994
- J.P.Morgan, energy mergers & acquisitions, investment banking, commodities trading. 1996–2017
- Department of Energy, Member of the Advisory Board, Environmental Management program. 2005–2017
- Department of Energy, Under Secretary for Science. 2017–2021
- Bohr Quantum Technology, Co-founder and CEO. 2021–2025
- Power & Digital Infrastructure I & II, board member, 2021–2024
- Dominion Energy, board member, 2023 to current
- AirJoule Technologies, board member. 2024 to current
- Warburg Pincus, advisor. 2021 to current
- Transition Equity Partners, advisor. 2023 to current
- Columbia University, Center on Global Energy Policy, Distinguished Visiting Fellow & Adjunct Senior Research Scholar. 2021 to current

13. List all memberships you have had after 18 years of age or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization (You do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

- Council on Foreign Relations, member.
- U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1989 Fundraising Committee, co-Chair, 2004–2017
- POTUS Transition Team, volunteer, 2024–2025.
- America First Policy Institute, volunteer, 2023–2024.

14. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt. No.

15. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities. None.

16. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$200 or more for the past ten years.

- RNC, 2024. \$360
- Campaign of D. Trump, 2024. \$2940
- Campaign of D. Trump, 2024. \$360
- Save America, 2024. \$4640
- RNC, 2024. \$4640
- Save America, \$360
- Campaign of D. Trump, 2024. \$3300
- NRCC, 2023. \$2500
- Campaign of Chuck Fleischmann, 2023. \$2000

- Campaign of Chuck Fleischmann, 2023. \$2000

- Stand for America, 2022. \$1000

- Campaign of Themis Klarides (CT governor), 2022. \$500

- RNC, 2019. \$250

- Campaign of D. Trump, 2019. \$750

- Campaign of Steve Obsitnik (CT governor), 2018. \$100

- Campaign of D. Trump, 2017. \$1000

17. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

- U.S. Department of Energy, James R. Schlesinger Award, senior Secretary of Energy service award.
- Council on Competitiveness, Fellow.
- Navy Achievement Medal
- Navy Arctic Service Medal

18. List all books, articles, columns, letters to the editor, Internet blog postings, or other publications you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication when available.

All of these that are available are listed and linked on my Linkedin page, Publications section, link below:

- [Linkedin: *https://www.linkedin.com/public-profile/settings?trk=d_flagship3-profile_self_view_public_profile&lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_profile_view_base%3BzoYKmzhDTB21h%2BcGDksa3Q%3D%3D*](https://www.linkedin.com/public-profile/settings?trk=d_flagship3-profile_self_view_public_profile&lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_profile_view_base%3BzoYKmzhDTB21h%2BcGDksa3Q%3D%3D)

19. List all speeches, panel discussions, and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint) that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the speech or presentation when available.

All of these that are available are listed and linked on my Linkedin page, link below:

- [Linkedin: *https://www.linkedin.com/public-profile/settings?trk=d_flagship3-profile_self_view_public_profile&lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_profile_file_view_base%3BzoYKmzhDTB21h%2BcGDksa3Q%3D%3D*](https://www.linkedin.com/public-profile/settings?trk=d_flagship3-profile_self_view_public_profile&lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_profile_file_view_base%3BzoYKmzhDTB21h%2BcGDksa3Q%3D%3D)

20. List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and podcasts and television appearances, which are on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated, including dates. Include a link to each statement when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the statement when available.

All of these that are available are listed and linked on my Linkedin page, link below:

- [Linkedin: *https://www.linkedin.com/public-profile/settings?trk=d_flagship3-profile_self_view_public_profile&lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_profile_view_base%3BzoYKmzhDTB21h%2BcGDksa3Q%3D%3D*](https://www.linkedin.com/public-profile/settings?trk=d_flagship3-profile_self_view_public_profile&lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_profile_view_base%3BzoYKmzhDTB21h%2BcGDksa3Q%3D%3D)

21. List all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full name of an “alias” or “handle”, including the complete URL and username with hyperlinks, you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

- Twitter/X: @PMDabbar [Twitter/X: @PMDabbar *https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fx.com%2Fpdaabbar%3Fs%3D11%26t%3DWu4E9wNLHfH-Z1bDTjkyVQ&data05%7C02%7C%7C194edb6319f34efe589208dd5e908b6c%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638770697083905657%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIYiOiwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMjIsIkFOljoiTWFpbCIlsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C57C%7C&sdata=3FioERCBHdMj7aOVqph1qgucyC7NwVbtIHq6j5KbAM%3D&reserved=0*](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fx.com%2Fpdaabbar%3Fs%3D11%26t%3DWu4E9wNLHfH-Z1bDTjkyVQ&data05%7C02%7C%7C194edb6319f34efe589208dd5e908b6c%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638770697083905657%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIYiOiwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMjIsIkFOljoiTWFpbCIlsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C57C%7C&sdata=3FioERCBHdMj7aOVqph1qgucyC7NwVbtIHq6j5KbAM%3D&reserved=0)

- [Linkedin: *https://www.linkedin.com/public-profile/settings?trk=d_flagship3-profile_self_view_public_profile&lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_profile_view_base%3BzoYKmzhDTB21h%2BcGDksa3Q%3D%3D*](https://www.linkedin.com/public-profile/settings?trk=d_flagship3-profile_self_view_public_profile&lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_profile_view_base%3BzoYKmzhDTB21h%2BcGDksa3Q%3D%3D)

- Truth Social:@PMDabbar [Truth Social:@PMDabbar *https://truthtsocial.com/@PMDabbar*](https://truthtsocial.com/@PMDabbar)

22. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date, committee, and subject matter of each testimony.

I have testified a significant number of times before the House and Senate. Starting from my Under Secretary confirmation hearing at SENR in 2017, subsequently as Under Secretary at many authorization and appropriations hearings, and subsequent to my role as Under Secretary over the last four years. I believe these are all of my testimonies:

- SENR, July 20, 2017. Nomination hearing for Under Secretary DOE
- SENR, Sept 25, 2018. Hearing on Quantum Information Science
- SENR, Feb 7, 2019. Hearing on Energy Innovation
- SENR, Apr 15, 2021. Hearing on Role of DOE in Innovation
- SENR, Feb 20, 2025. Hearing on Research Security Risks
- SEPW, Nov 1, 2023. Hearing on Extreme Event Attribution
- House Science, Space and Technology Committee, Jan 30, 2018. Hearing on DOE Reorganization
- House Science, Space and Technology Committee, June 7, 2023. Advancing Leadership in Quantum Technology
- House E&C, Feb 7, 2019. State of Energy Innovation
- House E&C, Jan 31, 2023. Hearing on American Energy Expansion
- House E&C, Oct 19, 2023. Hearing on Unlocking AI's Potential in the Energy Sector
- Senate Appropriations, Apr 11, 2018. DOE budget request
- House Appropriations, E&W Subcommittee, April 3, 2019, Budget proposal review

23. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency/commission/corporation to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

My most applicable past experience that qualifies me for this role was my role as Under Secretary for Science at the U.S. Department of Energy. In that role I had a budget of ~\$15 billion per annum, which is about the size of the Department of Commerce. I was also the manager and leader of ~30,000 career employees and contractors. As a part of that, I directly managed 11 of the 17 National Labs, as well as over 100 other sites. In that role I managed operations, research and construction of a wide set of facilities at the highest level of complexity, include large nuclear and scientific projects. As a part of operations, I managed CFO, General Counsel and Human Capital efforts of my organizations. I also led efforts of authorization and appropriations for my offices at Congress, EPA and other environmental requirements, and collaboration with other agencies, including DOC, on our joint efforts. I also was a major funder of research in the physical sciences at universities in all fifty states. And I led commercialization of technology developed at the National Labs, including generation of patents.

I had significant overlap and cooperative efforts with many areas of DOC. Including efforts on atmospheric and estuary research with NOAA, quantum, neutron science and standard setting with NIST, Bayh-Dole and other IP policy with the USPTO, and technology security policy with BIS.

24. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency/commission/corporation has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

My responsibilities would be to manage the day-to-day operations the Department. From managing efforts of the various program offices run by the various Under Secretaries, to Department level management offices such as legal affairs, CFO, and legislative affairs. I would also help manage trade policy efforts as directed by the Secretary, as well as any additional new efforts that might be assigned to the Department during my tenure.

I believe I am well qualified based on my experience as Under Secretary previously as described in #23 above. As well as a broad set of other professional experiences described in my attached biography.

25. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency/commission/corporation, and why?

Trade policy and negotiations will certainly be a significant effort of the department during my tenure. In addition, management of export controls of key U.S.

technologies by the BIS office. And finally helping drive key new technologies and U.S. leadership at NIST, the Chips Act programs, and securing new technology intellectual property.

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts, such as a 401(k) or pension plan.

My only continuing dealing will be a 401K and a Defined Benefit pension from a previous employer that existed prior to my last appointment in 2017 as Under Secretary. They are a JPMorgan Chase 401K, and a JPMorgan Chase Defined Benefit Program. Both have no additional contributions by my past employer or myself since my separation in 2017, and no more will be added going forward. I also have a past U.S. government Thrift Savings plan. I might sign up for the current U.S. government Thrift Savings plan if I am confirmed as Deputy Secretary.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association, or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain. No.

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

The following are the companies and organizations which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which I have been nominated:

Bohr Quantum Technology: Past CEO/employee, current shareholder
 Dominion Energy: current board member, shareholder
 AirJoule Technologies, current board member, shareholder
 Warburg Pincus: current paid advisor
 Transition Equity Partners: current paid advisor
 Columbia University: current paid Adjunct Senior Research Scholar
 Council on Competitiveness: current unpaid Fellow
 Clearpath: current unpaid advisory board member
 Energy Capital Ventures: current unpaid advisory board member

I will step down from all of those that I am currently engaged upon confirmation and prior to being sworn in, and meet and abide by all requirements directed by the Office of Government Ethics, including as needed divesture or other directed mitigation steps as directed by OGE. I did these steps successfully when I was appointed Under Secretary for Science.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In addition to the list in B3 above, I was also an employee of JPMorgan in the last ten years.

I will have no ongoing relationship with any of the entities if I am confirmed, other than my disclosed JPMorgan pension plans. and will abide by all directions for the Office of Government Ethics on conflict of interest.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest. None.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy. None.

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, an Inspector General, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group?

None. If yes:

- Provide the name of the court, agency, association, committee, or group;
- Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;

- c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;
- d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, municipal, or foreign government entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. None.
3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain. None.
4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. None.
5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain. None.
6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination. None.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency/commission/corporation complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency/commission/corporation endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority? Yes.
2. Will you ensure that your department/agency/commission/corporation does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistleblowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures? Yes.
3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee? Yes.
4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so? Yes.

*Paul M. Dabbar***WORK EXPERIENCE**

Columbia University, Center on Global Energy Policy , New York, NY <i>Adjunct Senior Research Scholar and Distinguished Visiting Fellow</i>	2021 – Current
• Lecturing and publishing on energy policy, and support of student study efforts	
Dominion Energy , Richmond, VA <i>Independent Member of the Board</i>	2023–Current
• Dominion (NYSE: D) is a diversified utility operating primarily in Virginia, South and North Carolina	
Air Joule Technologies , Ronan, MT <i>Independent Member of the Board, Chair of the Audit Committee</i>	2024–Current
• Air Joule Technologies (NASDAQ: AIRJ) is an atmospheric thermal energy and water harvesting technology company	
Warburg Pincus , New York, NY <i>Advisor</i>	2021 – Current
• Private equity firm, supporting the group investing in new energy companies	
Wall Street Journal , New York, NY <i>Editorial page Contributor</i>	2021 – Current
• Author of WSJ editorial page articles	
Bohr Quantum Technology Corp. , Pasadena, CA <i>Co-Founder and CEO</i>	2021 – 2025
• Developing and deploying quantum information networking technologies based on entanglement and superposition for the emerging quantum internet	
• Developing quantum teleportation networking from technologies developed at Caltech	
U.S. Department of Energy , Washington, DC. <i>Under Secretary for Science</i>	2017-2021
• Served as the fourth Under Secretary for Science, the Department's principal advisor on fundamental energy research, energy technologies, technology commercialization, and science	
• Confirmed by the U.S. Senate for the position by unanimous consent	
• Managed and/or funded over 60,000 people at over 100 sites, including the 17 National Labs with an annual capital deployment of \$15BN towards research, construction and operations	
• Led departments responsible for nuclear and high energy particle physics, basic energy, advanced computing, fusion, biological and environmental research. Including significant university grant programs, managing the global largest support for discovery in the physical sciences.	
• Developed various energy and technology strategic efforts. Including a national strategy on energy storage, new solar technologies, critical minerals, plastics innovation, fusion, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, high performance computing, space efforts including for Mars and the prospective moon base, and various science investments	
• Managed the largest environmental remediation program in the world, with liabilities of over \$500BN, addressing the operation of nuclear weapons efforts and power production. Completed several multi-billion-dollar construction projects, many ahead of schedule and under budget	
• Led the technology commercialization activities of the National Labs and the technology and intellectual property produced through \$18BN p.a. in R&D	

- Co-led drafting and ushering legislation through Congress, including the National Quantum Initiative Act and the Energy Act of 2020
- Led Covid-19 drug discovery efforts at the National Labs, providing key support for the nine-month record discovery cycle for the Covid vaccine
- Commissioned the top supercomputer in the world, Summit, at Oak Ridge National Lab, first large supercomputer deployment of Nvidia GPU's and the artificial intelligence revolution. Led the Exascale computing program which led to three more global #1 supercomputers
- Led the largest portion of the U.S. National Quantum Initiative with \$1BN in investment, standing up five quantum research centers with 69 partners including technology and finance companies. Co-author of the Quantum Internet Blueprint plan
- Programs led supported research resulting in several Nobel Prizes during tenure, including for CRISPR Cas9/Gene Editing and the Lithium-Ion battery chemistry
- Co-led department efforts in space exploration technologies for NASA, including portions of the Mars Perseverance Rover and developing interplanetary nuclear propulsion
- Managed high-visibility community engagement efforts, including leadership of the largest environmental remediation portfolio in the U.S., with significant engagement with regulators, unions, local officials and tribal communities
- Co-led Cybersecurity and Cyber-operations development programs for the National Labs and U.S. government national security departments, including some at the highest security level
- Awarded the Secretary of Energy's senior DOE award, the *James R. Schlesinger Medal*, for leadership on developing energy technologies, discovery science, environmental management, and the National Quantum Initiative

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., New York, NY 1996-2017
Managing Director, Global Mergers & Acquisitions, Investment Banking

- Led various efforts in Mergers & Acquisitions and Commodities trading, including several efforts on behalf of JP Morgan Chase's strategic transactions
- Led over 200 transactions for a total of over \$400BN in energy, defense and energy technology areas
- Spearheaded a large number of board decision processes, including hostile and activist situations
- Advised senior management and Boards of Directors on transactions, including:
 - Mergers for Exelon, Duke, J.P. Morgan Chase, Nicor, Exxon, Energy East, TXU, Emera, Cascade, Omat, PowerSecure, SunEdison, Mirant, Genon, and Intergrys
 - Energy sectors of all types, including solar, wind, geothermal, distributed-generation, utility, nuclear, LNG, pipeline, oil & gas, trading, and emerging energy technologies
- Also had a senior leadership role for the company's commodity trading business, including power, oil & gas and metals, structuring and executing on major transactions

U.S. Navy, Mare Island, CA, and Pearl Harbor, HI. 1989-1994
Lieutenant, USS Pintado

- Nuclear submarine officer, managing tactical deployment and reactor operations
- Deployed to the Arctic, South America and off the coast of Russia

EDUCATION

- **Columbia University, Graduate School of Business**, M.B.A. 1996
- **U.S. Navy Nuclear Power and Engineers programs** 1990, 1993
- **U.S. Naval Academy**, B.S. (Engineering) 1989
 - Tau Beta Pi (Engineering), Phi Alpha Theta (History), and faculty selectee

PERSONAL

- Finisher of a 140.6 mile Ironman triathlon
- One of the few people who have traveled to both the geographic North and South Poles – to the North Pole by submarine to conduct military missions and environmental research while in the Navy; to the South Pole in support of high energy physics astronomy missions at South Pole Station
- Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Distinguished Fellow at the Council on Competitiveness, and Advisory board member at clean energy innovation group Clearpath Foundation, Transition Equity Partners, Energy Capital Ventures and a Department of Defense component. Member of the SCSP Fusion commission.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Dabbar.

And just to clarify for the record, members of this committee will not be required to run an Ironman in—

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Speak for yourself.

[Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. You are encouraged to run an Ironman if you feel so inspired but you will be enabled—

Senator CANTWELL. She climbed Kilimanjaro.

The CHAIRMAN. I climbed Mount Fuji, but I was 19.

[Laughter.]

Mr. DABBAR. I have my past staff behind me. I tried to encourage them to do a half Ironman when I was at DOE and I got some significant H.R. pushback on pressuring them.

The CHAIRMAN. Understandably.

And I will say on the Republican side of the aisle two of our members, Markwayne Mullin and Dave McCormick, are both former very accomplished wrestlers and more than a few of us have been trying to arrange a cage match which we think would sell a lot of tickets.

We have been unsuccessful in scheduling that, but hope springs eternal. Senator Sheehy just—would just shoot them both, so it is all a difference in perspective.

All right, to the work at hand.

Mr. Dabbar, your experience at the Department of Energy, your two-decade career in financial management, your success as the founder of a quantum technology company, all of that makes you very well qualified for this position.

Tell us why do you want to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce?

Mr. DABBAR. As I mentioned, Senator, this is an exciting time for the scope. Obviously, trade, as was mentioned by both you and the Ranking Member, is obviously front and center.

I have a significant amount of background to that in the private sector, and the bureaus that are primarily science and technology—no BIS, the Patent Office, the CHIPS Act, those are—those and others are—NTIA—are primarily science and technology efforts and, obviously, I have a great background in it but I am also very passionate about each and every one of those areas.

The CHAIRMAN. So as you and I discussed in my office yesterday, the President and this administration has two paths before it. One path that I think is very, very positive, one path that I think is very, very negative.

The positive path I think President Trump right now has extraordinary leverage—unprecedented leverage—to negotiate lower tariffs from our trading partners in exchange for lowering the tariffs that he has threatened to impose on them.

I think if we end up 30, 60, 90 days from now in a world where we have got markedly lower tariffs across the globe that would be an historic victory for Americans, for American jobs, for American workers.

On the other hand, the second path we could go down is a path that maintains very high tariffs in perpetuity, American tariffs on all of our trading partners, and we can expect retaliatory tariffs from our trading partners.

I believe that would be a very bad path. I believe that would be a path that would hurt Texas and would hurt America.

What is your view which path is preferable for the administration to take?

Mr. DABBAR. So the President has been very clear on support of the President's positions on the different drivers of trade and the different potential accomplishments of trade.

One of them may be to drive down barriers in tariffs and non-tariff barriers in our trading counterparts. Another one is to re-industrialize the U.S. as we lost a significant amount of jobs, especially since the WTO acquisition of the PRC drove down industrial jobs.

The third one is national security. I think yourself and many others here talk about the national security impact of the trade deficits.

And the last one is, potentially, revenues. I am not certain of the exact negotiations between various parties but I could certainly see that some negotiations may be more focused on the accomplishment of one or two of those and some might be others.

For example, I have testified many times before the Senate about China and national security issues, and I certainly think that when we talk about the PRC national security and reindustrialization it is going to be much more focused as a likely outcome of negotiations.

The CHAIRMAN. I recognize you will not be the ultimate decision-maker when it comes to the President's trade policy, but you will be one of the voices in the room and it is my hope that you will be a voice in the room advocating for using these tariffs as leverage to secure freer and fairer trade because I think that is the right direction for the administration to go.

Let me shift to a different topic. One of the Department of Commerce's most consequential responsibilities is the allocation and management of spectrum through the NTIA.

Last year Leader Thune, Senator Blackburn, and I introduced a bill to restore the FCC's authority and establish a clear, actionable spectrum pipeline, one that empowers commercial businesses to invest, innovate, and create jobs.

We now have the opportunity to advance a pipeline through reconciliation, which will not only bring in significant funding to the Treasury but will also help unleash American prosperity through market innovation and investment.

Notably, the bill does not contain the various—constrain the various parties in determining how to meet the goals of the pipeline. It provides instead a framework for success.

It also enhances our national security as any agency that becomes more efficient in its use of spectrum will receive significant funding.

The NTIA will play a lead role as the Federal Government's Spectrum Management Agency. Do you agree that it is important for the Federal Government to make additional spectrum available for commercial use and that this can be done without compromising national security?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. Tell this committee what the benefits are of making additional spectrum available for private development?

Mr. DABBAR. So there are two in particular, Mr. Chairman, that I would highlight.

One is satellite 5G, which is still very early stage, and then one that I am particularly interested in focusing on if I am so lucky to be confirmed is on satellite 6G where the U.S. needs to jump forward as the next competitive battlefield with the PRC.

So the utilization of spectrum to not only get to 5G satellite, but also get to 6G satellite which, hopefully, by the end of my term if I am so lucky to be confirmed that we will be moving forward on that and showing leadership on that over the PRC.

The CHAIRMAN. I very much agree that it is critical that America win the race for 5G and for 6G and that we not fall behind China, and if we find ourselves in a world where China and Huawei in particular has provided the global architecture for telecommunications worldwide that would do enormous damage both to our economic security and our national security, and I trust you will work hard in this new role to prevent that from happening.

Ranking Member Cantwell.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Again, I appreciate working together with you on many energy fronts including quantum and the Hanford cleanup.

Mr. Dabbar, do you support the CHIPS and Science Act?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes. I have been on the record and testified in support of that when it was going through Congress.

Senator CANTWELL. So you believe in honoring the agreements that are in place with companies?

Mr. DABBAR. I am not familiar with actual agreements underneath the CHIPS Act at the Commerce Department but the President has been—

Senator CANTWELL. Generally, if you think we have signed an agreement with a company and allocated resources that we should fulfill them, barring any—you know, barring any major problems with them?

Mr. DABBAR. So Secretary Lutnick and the President have been very clear about how to take the resources under the CHIPS and Science Act and how to get the most bang for the buck for the taxpayer.

And I think the President and the announcement—and Secretary Lutnick was just in Arizona on the announcement around TSMC moving from one fab for \$65 billion of support to three fabs and \$165 billion with no additional chip support.

And so I think that is a great example of taking the CHIPS Act subsidies and support and how to get the most out of it within agreements.

I am not familiar, for example, with all the TSMC agreements but I think I have—

Senator CANTWELL. OK. I have more questions.

I actually saw Secretary Lutnick last night and he was emphasizing how much he enjoyed being there. But I will tell you this, this committee and the last administration got that done.

Now, I am glad you feel like you get to rearrange some of the chess pieces but the President of the United States saying he is not

for CHIPS and Science and then all of us having to push back every damn day is nuts. OK?

This is policy that we have implemented that will make the United States competitive and so I just need to know that you are not going to be another one of these people that is going to make this harder for us. That is all we want to know. OK.

Will you commit to maintaining the NIST budget and the other R&D programs that are under the agency?

Mr. DABBAR. Sorry. Yes. I did not know it was a question. Sorry. Senator CANTWELL. Thank you.

What about the money for the tech hubs?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes. I think as appropriated and authorized I certainly know a bit about the tech hubs but assuming it is funded and authorized.

Senator CANTWELL. OK. What about moving marine fisheries out of NOAA and into Interior, also a ridiculous idea?

Mr. DABBAR. So I only know what I read in the newspaper about different potential proposals. I do know that over time that various proposals have been made about NOAA including in the last Congress about separating it completely. So I would review any sort of proposal, given many has been made over the decades on NOAA.

Senator CANTWELL. I get this may not be one of your areas of expertise but if you could bone up a little bit more on this for the record and give us an answer.

The science that NOAA does helps us manage our fisheries and right now we are being taken advantage of by both the Chinese and the Russians.

And so we do not want to be more disenabled at NOAA to advocate for our fisheries. My colleague from Alaska who is here probably has a thought on this.

But we want to be more empowered to fight and fight the injustices against the United States. We see a huge opportunity for the Department of Commerce to provide that leadership. You want to talk about a trade issue, talk about fisheries, and talk about the unfairness that is happening.

But we need the science and we need that agency to be complete on its R&D mission in NOAA. So what about the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research that also is being proposed to be eliminated?

Mr. DABBAR. Well, just to address your first point, Senator, when I was Under Secretary for Science we had a—smaller than NOAA but we did have a number of topics around fish and around atmospheric sciences. We had one plane rather than several. There is a bit of a history of that on nuclear weapons and so on.

But the fish, as you know, Senator Cantwell, we had research in Washington State along the Columbia River that I helped run. Sequim, which was another facility—

Senator CANTWELL. A national lab, yes.

Mr. DABBAR.—and at Senator Blackburn's state at Oak Ridge on so very—

Senator CANTWELL. OK. I have one more question to ask you. So I got that you have a little bit of—you will come back to me on this point.

So but on the spectrum issue you do not—the warfare of the future is in the skies, correct?

Mr. DABBAR. Sorry?

Senator CANTWELL. The warfare—on the spectrum issue the warfare of the future is in the skies, correct?

Mr. DABBAR. Absolutely, Senator.

Senator CANTWELL. OK. And so we cannot give away DOD assets that could have interference if that hurts our warfare capabilities for the future. Is that correct?

Mr. DABBAR. We absolutely need to be careful, and I do have a technical—a bit of a technical background in this and I know there are many people working on how to use the spectrum from a technical point of view more efficiently.

So in addition to just what the actual spectrum set aside is but also how to manage it better from a technical—

Senator CANTWELL. But you do not believe in compromising DOD?

Mr. DABBAR. Oh, absolutely not, Senator. Yes. Yes. Sorry.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator MORENO [presiding]. Senator Sullivan for more discussion on fish.

**STATEMENT OF HON. DAN SULLIVAN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM ALASKA**

Senator SULLIVAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I will save fish for a minute but, Mr. Dabbar, I am very impressed by your background. I think you are eminently qualified and I certainly plan on supporting you.

And you mentioned, your father worked at the Kenai LNG facility or helped get LNG from Alaska sold to Japan. Is that correct in your testimony?

Mr. DABBAR. He was—he worked for Phillips 66 in the late 1960s selling LNG to Tokyo Gas.

Senator SULLIVAN. That is amazing. It is great. Well, that fits perfect.

Last night I also saw the Secretary at a dinner—Secretary Lutnick. He mentioned to me, and I agree with Senator Cruz, that we have enormous leverage right now to reduce tariffs.

One of the things that we are also trying to do is get our Asian allies to commit like your father did to purchase Alaskan LNG from the large-scale LNG project that we are now working on.

The Secretary is fully on board with that, he mentioned again to me last night. So is the President. So is the U.S. trade rep.

Can I just get your commitment to work with them on that big opportunity we have? This is a huge strategic opportunity for our country.

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Senator.

American energy superpower status, now we are in a better position than ever before on energy contributing to the positive trade.

Senator SULLIVAN. Great.

Speaking of superpowers, I like to refer to Alaska as the superpower of seafood. About two-thirds of all seafood harvested—commercial, sport, subsistence—of all the fish harvested in America

over two-thirds comes from Alaska. So we are it. Multi-billion-dollar industry, multi-billion-dollar exporter.

So Secretary Lutnick during his confirmation said he wanted to be, quote, "The godfather of the American fisherman." I do not know if there is a another phrase I can use for you—consigliere or something like that.

But can you also commit to making this a high priority? He got tons of questions during his confirmation hearing on fish. Can I get your commitment on that?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Senator.

Senator SULLIVAN. So I think we are off to a good start, certainly, on fisheries. We have this unleashing Alaska's extraordinary resource potential executive order from President Trump on day one. This includes fisheries, LNG, all kinds of great things in Alaska.

And then just a couple days ago Restoring America's Seafood Competitiveness EO, so we are off to a good start and I want to commend the President, Secretary Lutnick, on their team.

But I am concerned, to Senator Cantwell's points—and this is a big issue—that we are not having the staffing to do the two things that Commerce has to do for fisheries. So American fisheries, unlike CHIPS and Science, 200—a quarter of a trillion dollar subsidies—my guys do not get subsidized at all.

The Federal Government has to do two things. They need to do robust surveys to inform accurate stock assessments and they need to do timely promulgation of regulations to open fisheries. That is it.

And when the Federal Government does not do that you screw the hardworking fishermen of Alaska and America. Just think "Deadliest Catch." They do have to compete with Russia and China.

And to be honest, right now it is not starting to look good and I am starting to get really upset because when you got—look, Biden was horrible on the surveys. Horrible.

We threw a ton of money at NOAA and the guy did climate change and all this BS. He did not do the blocking and tackling of NOAA which is stock assessment surveys.

So you guys came in, hey, we are not going to be like Biden, but you are not—I am getting really worried that you guys are not doing this either.

And when you do not do stock assessment surveys you know what happens? My fishermen cannot fish. They do not go \$240 billion in subsidies. All they need is a survey and it is not happening.

I got a whole list and I am going to mention them here, and I hope to hell someone from Commerce is watching, OK, because if you are not doing surveys—that is the basic stuff you are supposed to do at NOAA—then my guys cannot fish. They do not want subsidies. They just want to fish.

So can I get your commitment? And I hope to hell someone from NOAA is watching this. I got a whole list of surveys right now that looks like you are not going to complete.

So what happens? My fishermen do not fish. That is wrong.

Can I get your commitment? And hope to hell someone from NOAA and Commerce is watching this right now. Get on with the

surveys, God damn it. Can I get your commitment? As you can tell I am a little rattled about this.

Mr. DABBAR. Yes. Yes, Senator, and I know that—I have read your proposed bill, the latest one, and also how understanding research of, for example, salmon in Alaska where some things are going well, you know, strong and some things are weaker and why. So certainly committed on that also.

Senator SULLIVAN. We just need—I just need your commitment to get the staffing and money to do the surveys. That is it, and if we are failing on this this is not good.

Let me ask one final question. This relates. There is a contract we are trying to get the Secretary to sign, like, right now that is for the Oscar Dyson. It is a NOAA survey vessel home ported in Kodiak, Alaska.

It is coming up for its contract that needs to be signed this week. Again, I hope Commerce people are watching. OK. Just sign the contract so we can do the surveys from the Oscar Dyson. That is a NOAA survey vessel ship.

If that is not signed in the next couple days that vessel will not be able to do surveys. So, again, this is blocking and tackling to take care of our fishermen, which is in the President's EO's.

But we got to be able to support them with science, and can I get your commitment on that and maybe have someone get to the Secretary and sign this contract on the Oscar Dyson, like, today?

Mr. DABBAR. I will follow up, and there are people behind me and watching, listening to you I am certain.

Senator SULLIVAN. Really, really important. Thank you.

Senator MORENO. All right. I will now recognize Senator Klobuchar and note that the swear jar is being passed around.

[Laughter.]

**STATEMENT OF HON. AMY KLOBUCHAR,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MINNESOTA**

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I was up till 1 a.m. watching the Timberwolves beat the L.A. Lakers, just for the record. Kind of a surprise in that series. We are very excited so—

Senator MORENO. The Cavs are ready for you.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. OK, great.

So, I appreciate your background very much and your commitment to science and economic opportunity. I view this, being from a state with 15 Fortune 500 companies, fourth for ag exports, Mayo Clinic, a big medical device presence that we are literally on this cusp of economic expansion or were on it, I should say, with everything from mapping of the human genome to the work that has been done on AI, as long as we—and I am going to ask about this—put some rules in place.

But I am concerned, and my colleagues have asked you about this, just about these tariffs setting us backward with the rest of the world.

I cannot tell you how concerned I am about this because not everyone—you know, Tim Cook can get into the White House but my little company down that makes high chairs stuff, Busy Baby, she cannot get in there and she cannot get at the investment meetings.

Does not know which tariffs are going to change, what's going to happen, and so I just hope you will be a voice on that front.

So first question, I have National Science Foundation grants (and the administration has cutoff hundreds of these grants including at the University of Minnesota) and I just—this scientific research going on again. Very exciting.

Will you commit to funding the NSF and will you commit to restoring funding for the NSF grants?

Mr. DABBAR. So Commerce does not fund NSF. I am reasonably familiar because when I was Under Secretary, and we also do work with NSF at South Pole and elsewhere.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Right.

Mr. DABBAR. And so, certainly, NSF is a very important aspect to the funding research. But I do not have that scope.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Will you be an advocate for it was probably the better words?

Mr. DABBAR. I will certainly be supporting S&T investment and I think as you know, Senator, when the sequester was lifted last time the President signed the quantum bill, the AI bill, and so on and I was certainly a part of both supporting that and executing on that.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Speaking of AI, the—you know, we have had a lot of bipartisan work over here still haven't really passed. Senator Thune and I have a base bill for nondefense applications of AI.

Talk about what your priorities would be for AI? I'm just concerned that we have not put in place any guardrails and that could actually set everyone back if we don't do that.

Mr. DABBAR. So it is a long topic having—

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Yes, I do not—yes, you cannot filibuster—

Mr. DABBAR. Yes. I will try to Senator. The opportunity set for AI is so incredibly broad. I think it is very important to allow every medical device maker and every company out there to look at AI for operations and allow people to expand.

I am on the board of Dominion Energy, which is—currently I will be resigning if I am so lucky to be confirmed. But using AI for utility operations, for dispatching power plants, to storms. You could use this for weather so getting to NOAA.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Got it.

Mr. DABBAR. There is a long list and I want to try to facilitate all the different opportunities including within the scope of Commerce.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Yes, and I just would hope that you would be an advocate—I can ask this more in writing—just for some rules of the road in place because even the companies want this, and we can talk about it more back and forth or meet about it.

OK. Rural exports—Senator Hoeven and I passed legislation on this. You know, we have the Foreign Commercial Service, but in a lot of areas they do not have a—a big company might have, you know, a full time trade expert on a certain part of the world and this rural export center in Fargo assists rural small businesses to access international markets.

And you may not be familiar with the details, but will you commit to supporting the work of the Commerce Department with rural exports?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Senator.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. OK. Thank you.

We talked about CHIPS and Science, Broadband Program. Had a confirmation come through this committee on that. As you know, we allocated a lot of money. Has not really gone out quite yet.

We do not want to get back into that whole history but we do have to get it out, and are you committed to getting that funding out to the states and put to work?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Senator.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. OK. Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BERNIE MORENO,
U.S. SENATOR FROM OHIO**

Senator MORENO. Thank you for being here. Thank you for serving your country for the fourth time. I appreciate that. Look forward to having you confirmed.

Taking up from my colleagues who were talking about innovation, something that is near and dear to my heart, I recently introduced a very bipartisan bill called the “Deploying American Blockchain Act”. Passed this committee pretty unanimously, which is good to see, and I just want to make certain that you are committed to implementing that properly when it gets passed by both chambers to really look at what America can do to take that next step in being the center for the evolution of blockchain technology.

Mr. DABBAR. So I have not read your bill, Senator, but certainly support American leadership on blockchain.

Senator MORENO. All right.

And shifting gears, you are somebody who has run pretty complex organizations. There is not a lot of people who have that in their background. So I look forward to having you run—help Secretary Lutnick run Commerce.

Is it fair to say in your experience in the government and in the private sector running complex organizations, does more money always equal better results?

Mr. DABBAR. No, Senator.

Senator MORENO. Sometimes the opposite, right? But that is something that I think most people who have not run organizations would feel that that is an odd paradigm, right, because typically the idea is more people, more money. You have a problem, throw money at it. Throw people at it.

Can you talk about what you have seen in your experience why that is a fallacy?

Mr. DABBAR. So a lot of times money can be spent on things that have not been—are not needed I think is a good way of putting it.

So I will give you an example. When I was Under Secretary for Science we had just won—we were just winning when I showed up—the Nobel Prize for the lithium ion chemistry.

But the department was still spending money on lithium ion battery discovery science—not scaling, not manufacturing, but discovery science. And so we were spending something that we won

the Nobel Prize on and I think we could say that that was a declaration of victory for discovery science.

And so that was not a really great place to kind of keep on spending money into something that we already had victory on so we refocused the money on the future, and so I think that is an example of, you know, the right way to think about where the taxpayer money should be looking at.

Senator MORENO. So as we talk about cuts and assessments of different programs it is absolutely something that is essential, right, to see where is the money most efficiently, and setting up better processes, better systems, and taking advantage of technology is a much better way to go than just randomly throwing a bunch of money into a problem.

Mr. DABBAR. Absolutely, and I am going to be mildly dangerous and bring up Hanford with Senator Cantwell. There was a lot of money spent for a very long period of time and a lot of different directions have been—I am always paraphrasing the senator from many years ago—heading in different directions that we are not accomplishing very much.

And when the senator looked at me and Secretary Brouillette 8 years ago and said, can you say that we are going to focus on the things that work rather than things that are not working, not pivot back and forth and get things done, and one of the proudest things I think the two of us and others did was the last couple of days of the previous administration was to call up the senator and say that we had completed construction.

Senator MORENO. That is great.

Shifting gears again, 25 years ago—so we are in the 25th year anniversary of what I think is the most toxic, most outrageously terrible bill in the history of the United States of America, which is the U.S.-China Normalization Act.

The GDP of China at that point in time, 25 years ago, was \$1.2 trillion. It is projected to be \$20 trillion next year. Who won and who lost?

Mr. DABBAR. The accession of China to the WTO and the normalization was very, very poor to the U.S. economy and in particular to the manufacturing workers that about 5 million people lost their jobs.

And given the velocity of money in the communities that—you can multiply that by five or six—we lost about 25 to 30 million jobs in this country as a result of—to a large degree of that topic.

Senator MORENO. And what kind of jobs?

Mr. DABBAR. Well, certainly the manufacturing jobs were the 5 million that had dropped.

Senator MORENO. These are jobs that are family sustaining wages where you could live, provide for a family, retire with dignity?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes. Dignity and middle class jobs is what was lost because of that.

Senator MORENO. And what would happen, in your mind, if we just ignored it? If we just said, look, we can make cheap goods in some other country and bring them into the United States where would we be in 10 years?

Mr. DABBAR. We are—I think the trends that we are seeing around fentanyl, trends that we are seeing on small town America that really accelerated over the last 20 years because of that collapse of manufacturing related jobs.

Yes, I think you will see that continue and I think all of us, you know, do not want to see that continue.

Senator MORENO. Well, thank you.
I recognize Senator Baldwin.

**STATEMENT OF HON. TAMMY BALDWIN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM WISCONSIN**

Senator BALDWIN. Thank you.

Mr. Dabbar, congratulations on your nomination. I want to pick off or pick up on a point that our Ranking Member made in her opening comments.

When Congress passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law we included a bipartisan amendment in this committee that put the Minority Business Development Agency into statute.

Our intention was to invest in entrepreneurs and small businesses by expanding the reach of business centers that provide high-quality technical assistance to minority business enterprises including counseling and mentoring, assisting with access to capital and contracts, and supporting job creation and retention.

That recent bipartisan accomplishment led by many members of this committee and, again, on a bipartisan basis has been dismissed by this administration, which is set on eliminating the agency and closing the business centers in our states.

President Trump, in dismantling the Minority Business Development Agency, issued an executive order that requires a report and that report needs to explain which functions of the Minority Business Development Agency are statutorily required, which is what we did in this committee when we included our amendment.

My calls for that report have gone unanswered. So, Mr. Dabbar, if confirmed I will be following up with you to get that report and the answers on the Minority Business Development Agency.

Can I count on you to be responsive?

Mr. DABBAR. I will certainly make certain that we respond to your letter.

Senator BALDWIN. Mr. Dabbar, we have seen the Minority Business Development Agency grant a termination notice that was signed by a DOGE member named Nate Cavanaugh.

Mr. Cavanaugh signed a notice claiming that he was acting under the authority of the Acting Under Secretary of the Minority Business Development Agency, Keith Sonderling.

We have since learned that Mr. Cavanaugh may have potentially sent these grant termination notices without Mr. Sonderling's approval, which if true raises very serious questions about whether DOGE is now running the Department of Commerce.

So, Mr. Dabbar, if confirmed will you commit to review the MBDA grant termination notices that were signed by Mr. Cavanaugh and promptly inform this committee whether Mr. Cavanaugh sent those notices with proper approval?

Mr. DABBAR. If I am so honored to be confirmed, I have a great amount of experience in running organizations including review

criteria of who has certain approvals. I did that as Under Secretary. I will certainly—

Senator BALDWIN. So you will immediately let us know whether Mr. Cavanaugh had the authority and approval to sign those grant termination notices?

Mr. DABBAR. I will certainly look into it, Senator. I do not know the details but I will certainly look into it if I am confirmed.

Senator BALDWIN. And provide those details?

Mr. DABBAR. I will respond to any of the requests that you have submitted.

Senator BALDWIN. In Wisconsin our biohealth tech hub furthers the state position as a global leader in personalized medicine. The first tranche of funding provided by the CHIPS and Science Act has been disbursed, but there are millions more owed to the tech hub program over the next 5 years.

I understand the administration is considering submitting a budget request to Congress that would eliminate the Economic Development Administration that disburses those funds.

If confirmed, do I have your commitment to keeping the promises that were made to the technology hubs?

Mr. DABBAR. So I am not familiar with the budget proposals that are being drafted and so on, but I will follow whatever the law is and whatever is appropriated by Congress.

Senator BALDWIN. So you would—I have your commitment to keeping the promises that we made to the tech hubs? Is that what you said?

Mr. DABBAR. I will follow authorization and appropriations.

Senator BALDWIN. The tech hubs will have an enormous amount of potential to make strides in artificial intelligence, in quantum computing, in advanced manufacturing, in addition to advancements in personalized medicine like the one that is housed in Wisconsin.

Under your leadership how will the Department of Commerce utilize innovation from these regional technology hubs?

Mr. DABBAR. So I will give you a Wisconsin example.

Senator BALDWIN. Great.

Mr. DABBAR. So of the four number-one supercomputers that were built at DOE three were built in Wisconsin.

Senator BALDWIN. Cray. HPE.

Mr. DABBAR. And I was there. I went to go visit and they not only do, you know, DOE computers but many across the country including for national security.

Senator BALDWIN. Yes.

Mr. DABBAR. So Wisconsin's leadership of that and manufacturing of high-performance computers and obviously the workforce in Wisconsin was highly important in order for us to do that.

So I have personal experience in Wisconsin on workforce, on AI, and computing, and it was vitally important to me back then and will be vital for the country, going forward.

Senator BALDWIN. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN [presiding]. Thank you.

Senator Moran.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JERRY MORAN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM KANSAS**

Senator MORAN. Chairman, thank you, and, Mr. Dabbar, welcome. Good morning.

A couple of things, mostly related to budget and to trade, although Senator Klobuchar in her failure to ask one of her questions asked me to ask, and I just would remind you she and I co-chair the Travel and Tourism Caucus in the Senate and we are looking to see support from the Department of Commerce in regard to the events that are occurring in our country related to FIFA and all the potential business opportunities our country has there, plus then the international Olympics in Los Angeles.

Our country has a lot of preparation to be prepared for those—that number of guests. What I want to talk to you about first is NOAA.

I find some reports disturbing about the significant budget cuts at NOAA along with personnel shortages. I would like to hear you confirm that it is important for our Weather Service offices to remain open 24/7.

It is essential for public safety. It is essential for the economy of Kansas and agriculture producers, the aviation industry, and that seems to be in jeopardy based upon where we are, and that these Weather Service offices need to be staffed 24/7 and we will work in my capacity as an appropriator to see that the money is there as I think we have done in the past.

We just need to make sure that that would be implemented and supported by the Department of Commerce.

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Senator. As someone who grew up just a few miles south of Independence, across the border, Tornado Alley, and the support that we have for many parts of the country but including your state is vitally important.

Senator MORAN. I thank you for your willingness to cooperate.

In addition to agriculture we are the air capital of the world and manufacture more general aviation airplanes but now that is expanding into many other aspects of aviation and aerospace.

One of the key frameworks that has made this possible is a 1979 Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft, a pact among the U.S. and 33 other nations. That agreement is hugely important to the supply chain of the industry.

The aviation industry is one of the bright spots in our export markets and I need to know that you are willing to work to make certain that we go forward under that agreement in our relationships with those countries in a way that does not interfere with the supply chain of producing airplanes and aircraft and aerospace in this country.

Mr. DABBAR. Absolutely, Senator. I mean, clearly, in addition to agriculture, aerospace and defense is a comparative advantage industry for this country and the net trade benefit positive should continue to expand in that sector for us.

Senator MORAN. Mr. Dabbar, you just highlighted why trade and tariffs are so important to me as a Kansan. Aviation, aerospace, and agriculture—we are an export-dependent state and we earn our living doing so.

I want to talk to you a moment, again, about the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the MEP. Last month the Department of Commerce informed 10 states—the MEP program centers—that it would not renew their funding.

This is true despite strong bipartisan support for the program and seemingly in alignment with the Trump administration's interest in improving the environment for increasing manufacturing in the United States.

Do you have any thoughts about how MEP fits into the future of manufacturing and the level of support we can see from the Department of Commerce for that program?

Mr. DABBAR. So I had the honor when I was Under Secretary to support manufacturing, R&D efforts for new advanced manufacturing when I was Under Secretary at a number of different senators' states here when I was running the National Labs.

So at least from my point of view, how do we drive advanced manufacturing for the next step is vitally important and programs to support that I think are vitally important.

So I would certainly look into that program and try to see how that advances advanced manufacturing for the future.

Senator MORAN. Mr. Dabbar, it seems like you have done a lot of traveling. I do not remember we have ever met in Kansas and I would like to take that 50th state off your list or put it on your list, and I assume by that smile and head shake you and I will visit my state together.

Mr. DABBAR. I will be glad to visit Wichita and visit some factories or wherever else makes sense, Senator.

Senator MORAN. Thank you for answering my questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Moran, and I can attest Kansas is a wonderful place to be.

Senator Kim.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ANDY KIM,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY**

Senator KIM. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Earlier in this hearing when you were actually having an exchange with the Chairman you talked about something that caught my attention. You said, you know, we should be trying to reindustrialize in order to compete with China and improve our national security.

You also expressed your support for the CHIPS and Science Act. Do you see the CHIPS and Science Act and what it is trying to do there as part of an effort to try to reindustrialize and try to push us further forward to be able to better compete with China?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Senator.

Senator KIM. So I guess I am interested. This is something I raised with Secretary Lutnick as well in his hearing.

I was trying to think through, OK, you know, on that part when we deal with semiconductor chips we have used that as an effort to move forward.

I guess I wanted to ask you the same question I asked him which is, do you think that there are other sectors, other types of technologies, where we can envision sort of a 2.0 not necessarily on

semiconductors again but I am trying to think through where do we go from here?

How do we try to take the lessons that we learned from CHIPS and Science and see whether or not there is another area of critical technology that we should be working together in a public-private partnership to be able to move forward?

What are your thoughts on that?

Mr. DABBAR. So let me hit on one that I know reasonably well which is energy technologies. America's leadership and now global leadership in energy certainly is in part on production but certainly part of it is on technology, and most of which—what we are deploying today from the energy sector was not invented in a commercial form 20 years ago.

And I know the pipeline quite well of energy technologies, given my background. Let me pick one that might be associated with your state, which is fusion.

The fusion—the likelihood of fusion becoming commercial in the next decade and in the next couple of years, first commercial fusion cores having big accomplishments is very, very likely. Princeton and others are big supporters of that.

So I think as we think about those sort of things some of the ideas that you were asking the question about can certainly make sense.

Senator KIM. I know some of that crosses different jurisdictions of departments and agencies, but if you are confirmed is that something you would be willing to work with me on in terms of trying to think through how we move forward in terms of using some of those types of tools and try to see if we can create some bipartisan energy going forward?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Senator.

Senator KIM. Well, I am curious. You know, you also did a lot when it comes to quantum.

Do you see space there as well to kind of further the government's role in terms of trying to supercharge that type of technology moving forward?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Senator. I think what has been accomplished because of the National Quantum Act that was previously passed and in particular it is supported out of this committee with the various agencies that the opportunity there to move from research to first deployment of systems I think we are there.

And so I think working with Congress and, obviously, I think Commerce within its—already within NIST primarily within its capabilities but how do we move forward I supported previously the National Quantum Initiative Reauthorization Act, which I still think is being considered.

I would love to work with you and other members of this committee as that gets considered.

Senator KIM. A lot of what we talked about just now was about efforts to move forward on advanced manufacturing, trying to supercharge it. But I would like to just kind of take a step back here.

You talked earlier about the importance of science and technology investments writ large. I guess I just wanted to ask you what you think the government's role is when it comes to basic research, so not necessarily in the implementation side.

But do you think that we are at the right level of basic research investment as a U.S. government? I just wanted to get a sense.

Do you think it is too high? Too low? Where do you think we are at?

Mr. DABBAR. So I have talked about this a lot over the last many years, given my last roles. You know, the best bang for the buck for the taxpayer many times is discovery and the reason why is that it is too far away from cash-flow for the private sector to fund well.

So if you go to—and although there was history, certainly, in New Jersey and elsewhere but to a very large degree in today's environment you go to GE or you go to a lot of these companies and say, please invest in very early discovery science and they will say no, I need—you know, we want to do it higher up the TRL level.

And so the best place to invest the Federal money is where the private sector really isn't and the best place for that is discovery. So—

Senator KIM. So in terms of going back to that first—the quote that I asked you about, you know, that we need to reindustrialize in order to compete with China, would you also say then we need to be able to make sure we are investing in basic research in order to be able to compete with China?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Senator.

Senator KIM. OK. Thank you. And with that, I will yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Senator Schmitt.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ERIC SCHMITT,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MISSOURI**

Senator SCHMITT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is good to see you. Now, am I right you grew up in Independence then?

Mr. DABBAR. No. I was right south in a little town called Bartlesville.

Senator SCHMITT. I know Bartlesville. I know Bartlesville.

Having run statewide three times in 8 years I know a lot of those towns. It is good to have you here.

I did want to talk a little bit about—I know that, you know, trade is, obviously, a hot topic and I think one of the things that has been illuminating for a lot of folks is to really kind of understand how we got here.

I think, you know, after World War II there were a lot of favorable conditions created so that our allies could get back on their feet principally to defeat Soviet communism.

That happened, and our foreign policy was sort of dedicated to that same proposition. That happened. But after the Cold War ended there was not an adjustment by way of foreign policy nor on economic policy.

So that is how you end up. You wake up and you go to—you know, you have Liberation Day and you find out that all these countries have not just tariffs but all these sort of trade practices that make it difficult for our goods to get into their markets.

You cannot sell beef in Australia. You cannot—you do not see an American car in Europe. You do not see an American car in Japan.

And so from my perspective it is about time that we rebalanced that equation and that is exactly what is happening right now, and I think you have got—from my perspective you got two buckets.

You have got China and you have got everybody else, and everybody else that is what everybody is working through right now.

Is that how you see it?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Senator.

Senator SCHMITT. That is fair? And I think ultimately you are seeing this investment. You are seeing the commitment from a lot of companies to start to do their advanced manufacturing, their production in the United States.

I do not think it is—no one is naïve. We are not going to produce everything here but getting back our fair share as opposed to those jobs going to China or to Mexico.

I think it is time that we have an administration that stood up for working folks who have been kind of left behind by this globalist dream that borders do not matter and, you know, it is just—nations do not matter and I think that is what we are sort of on the precipice of.

So anyway, you know, not to put a bow on the debate because it is ongoing but I did want to ask you also last—the first 2 years I was here I was the Ranking Member on the Space and Science Subcommittee.

We dealt a lot with commercial space, and I just wanted to get your thoughts. There is—this is a really important area for us. You talk about this global—this competition we have, this great powers competition with China. It is not confined to the terrestrial. It is not confined to the sea.

It is in space, too, and having a robust commercial space sector is really important for us to compete. You talked about discovery.

We do not really know what those discoveries might be on the Moon or in Mars but we know that we better find them before China because they certainly have designs.

Have you been brought up to speed or can you speak to how your office intends to sort of operate both with respect to NOAA and AST over it?

Because what you do not want to have is this sort of turf battle that defines so much of what happens in Washington and I think the newness of all this provides opportunities for greater alignment.

How do you see that? Where do you—how do you plan to deal with that?

Mr. DABBAR. So I have a little bit of a background at DOE. We actually did Mars work with JPL and with NASA, and we looked at nuclear propulsion. So there is a lot of technology advancement.

Certainly, I would work very closely with NASA and the facilities at Kennedy and elsewhere that—to make certain that we continue to suck in more investment and more launches and more commercial and use of footprint that we have in this country, and part of that in order to drive the economy and the aerospace sector, which we are so incredibly strong lead in including interstate.

And so I would advocate very strongly with my fellow science and technology—other partners at NASA and elsewhere to make certain that we open up for the world as well as our own launches

and expand our leadership that we are already doing pretty well on.

Senator SCHMITT. Well, we would love to get you back home to Missouri and because, as you mentioned, there is a lot going on particularly in the aerospace sector and the defense tech industry that sort of exists I think is really important.

And then, finally, I just want to put it on your radar I think one of the concerns with AI is it is a huge opportunity.

I do not think it is Skynet about ready the universe to be destroyed nor do I think cancer is going to be figured out tomorrow. It is probably somewhere in the middle, but it is a lot of opportunity.

But one of the concerns I think a lot of folks have is that what you do not want to have is AI manipulated in a way that affects people's right to express themselves or free speech, and that will be sort of on your plate, too.

We just want to make sure people, regardless of your opinion or your point of view, have the ability to speak your mind and you do not have this—we saw some of the efforts from the previous administration put their thumb on the scale with big tech and you are going to be in a position to make sure that does not happen, and I am sure that you share those concern and want to make sure that it is an open platform right for folks.

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Senator.

Senator SCHMITT. OK. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Senator Peters.

**STATEMENT OF HON. GARY PETERS,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MICHIGAN**

Senator PETERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Dabbar, congratulations on your nomination. Good to have you here today.

Sir, I believe the Department of Commerce has an absolutely critical role in supporting U.S. manufacturing. That is why I was so concerned when last month the department briefly tried to cancel funding for 10 states' Manufacturing Extension Partnership programs, or MEPs.

The Department appeared to quickly reverse course on this decision and announce that these centers would be, quote, "under review" until the end of the Fiscal Year.

I hope you are aware of MEPs, but the MEPs are essential to the U.S. manufacturing base. Every state has a center that is charged with helping small and medium manufacturers make their businesses successful, especially through workforce training and integration with advanced manufacturing as well as putting AI into their manufacturing process to increase efficiency, oftentimes dramatically.

Michigan's MEP—the Michigan Manufacturing Tech Center—has been extremely successful in helping businesses save money.

Last year alone they helped nearly 600 businesses save, roughly, 5,000 jobs in my state. MMTC generates a lot of its own operating costs but they still rely on Federal funding in order—for about a third of their operations.

The Michigan Center contract is up for renewal on July 1st and they are waiting for some funding certainty even sooner than that. Otherwise, they risk losing services so that they can provide to these small and medium manufacturers.

Historically, the MEP program has been bipartisan. That is why I think it is unconscionable that this administration is trying to eliminate something that has had broad, broad bipartisan support and support within the business community as well.

So my question for you is—this is basically a yes or no—if confirmed do you commit to carrying out any appropriated funding for MEPs and providing certainty for these centers in accordance with congressional intent?

Mr. DABBAR. We will certainly follow through on appropriation—appropriated line items and authorization. I would need—I certainly know about the program, Senator, that you mentioned and will certainly execute as per appropriated and authorized.

Senator PETERS. So you are familiar with the program and your assessment of it, at least based on what you know?

Mr. DABBAR. I have not—I have not done. I am just—I just have awareness.

But I will say, Senator, that having run advanced manufacturing development, R&D work, for new advanced manufacturing work while I was running the National Labs for the country was a clear area of mine that I ran.

So I have a great amount of experience in that area including in some things that people may not think of such as FRIB at Michigan State in which manufacturing of isotopes, which may not be normal manufacturing but certainly was in my scope, which was very important. Obviously, isotopes is particularly important, given what has happened with supply chains and Russia.

Senator PETERS. Right. Well, it was good to bring up FRIB. Those are bonus points right there, and you are right, the work that they do is amazing with isotopes.

I was just talking to the MSU President about that earlier this week. It is quite a program.

Mr. Dabbar, since the President's so-called Liberation Day the better—probably the better title would be National Sales Tax Day. We have seen just immense chaos in the U.S. economy.

I am constantly hearing from Michigan businesses, especially small businesses, that indiscriminate tariffs and facing the higher costs associated with those are also creating supply chain disruptions, and we all know that customers are basically going to bear the blunt of these effects. They are going to see higher costs as they shop and buy everyday goods.

So given the short- and long-term expected consequences of these tariffs, economic forecasters have actually updated, unfortunately, their projections to show for a likelihood of a U.S. is going to face a recession by the end of this year.

JPMorgan increased their odds of a recession to 65 percent. Goldman Sachs just increased their forecast to 45 percent likelihood that we are going to have an economic recession, which is going to hurt Americans all across the country.

I understand the administration is now in the midst of a 90-day pause on the vast majority of these reciprocal sales taxes to allow time for negotiation with trade agreements.

The fact of the matter, though, is that even with this pause there is still just widespread confusion as to how businesses are going to be impacted by these tariffs.

I had one businessman just recently in my office saying, basically, a pause is not good. I cannot do anything. I cannot hire people. I cannot make business decisions. This is going to hurt my business. A pause hurts my business as well.

And I think you would agree the one thing businesses want is certainty. If they have changes in rules they can adapt. They may not like them but they can adapt. But you have to have certainty and that certainty just does not exist.

So my question for you, if confirmed, how do you plan to provide greater certainty to U.S. businesses so they can do what they do best, which is provide services to their customers and grow and create jobs instead of being in a world of chaos?

Mr. DABBAR. So, Senator, as Deputy Secretary I will be supporting Secretary Lutnick and the President as directed, as a general point.

I am fully in support of the President and the Secretary's positions on the negotiations. I think one of the great steps the President took previously was tariffs on China that prevented the U.S. car industry from being really decimated like Europe's is right now by the Chinese.

And so I think that was very good steps that were made back then that really have protected the car industry, amongst other industries.

But, still, since 2000 there has been about a net \$20 trillion of net trade deficit, which is a stunning number, and the numbers have been getting higher every year on the annual basis.

So the President and the Secretary have taken action, building on the action of the first administration of the President to try to do what was, I think, bipartisally supported, actually, on those topics.

And the challenge is quite high and I think the steps that are going to go from now until where I think the President is targeting will accomplish a lot of pulling back that increasingly problems for Michigan and elsewhere.

Senator PETERS. Very good.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Senator Blunt Rochester.

**STATEMENT OF HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER,
U.S. SENATOR FROM DELAWARE**

Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome, Mr. Dabbar.

You have heard from some of my colleagues voice their concerns but I also want to be very clear about my concern over the gutting of the Minority Business Development Agency.

At his hearing before this committee I personally asked Secretary Lutnick if he opposed dismantling the MBDA and he said

yes, and then gutted the agency's leadership and core functions anyway.

And it has been reported that the agency has gone from 100 people to one person. I have heard they have been fired. I have heard they are on leave. That broken commitment undermines decades of bipartisan work.

It was created by a Republican president in 1969. Organizations like the National Urban League fought to codify the agency and, ultimately, the goal and what it has done is expand economic opportunity for communities in my state as well as across the country.

I was proud to join Senators Cantwell and Baldwin in writing letters opposing any effort to dismantle the MBDA. So my questions—first, I have a yes or no question. If you cannot answer it in a yes or no just say I cannot answer it.

Do you support the gutting of the MBDA?

Mr. DABBAR. I do not have enough information.

Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER. Could you talk about what steps that you would take to invest in minority-owned businesses that have the potential to transform our economy for the better?

Mr. DABBAR. As Deputy Secretary my role would be primarily besides the direction of the President and the Secretary is to execute on the authorization and the appropriations of the Senate.

Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER. I actually served as a Deputy Secretary in my state so I understand the role of deputy secretary. I also understand that it is an opportunity to also provide wisdom, direction, and advice.

And I know you have worked in many different capacities—public sector, private sector. In your work and in your career have you worked to unlock opportunities for minority-owned businesses and what recommendations would you give to the Secretary toward those goals?

Mr. DABBAR. Probably the one time where that—when I dealt with that was when I was Under Secretary for Science and there was a program at DOE that did not report to me but there was a DOE program on the topic.

Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER. I will follow up with more detail.

But I have to say I have a lack of confidence after the Secretary sat here and said he would not dismantle it and now it is being gutted.

I want to shift gears. We are, as has been said by many on the dais, in a competition with China on quantum. They have spent over \$15 billion in quantum—public quantum funding, far outpacing the U.S. which has invested my understanding \$932 million in 2023.

There is also a major shortage of skilled quantum scientists and engineers with McKinsey stating there is only one qualified quantum candidate for every three openings.

And DOGE is not helping. It is, again, reported that they fired over 70 NIST employees in March. This is also a concerning trend for a technology area that has the potential to revolutionize computers and our economy, as you have stated.

Are you concerned that we are not currently meeting the moment when it comes to our quantum competition with China and what are your thoughts on this?

Mr. DABBAR. So it is an area I know well. I think the investment that was made previously under the National Quantum Initiative Act was a very good first step.

I supported in testimony before how science—about the reauthorization and if I am so lucky to be confirmed I would love to work with this committee on that.

I do think that the science has now moved to the point that we could actually start building real devices, real computers. I have quite a bit of experience in that, and I think this is the time to go do that.

Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER. I know—I want to turn to cyber security as well.

Quantum is a critical technology for the future of this industry and NIST works on quantum cryptography including encryption designed to resist quantum-based computer attacks.

While these quantum attacks have not occurred yet, security experts warn bad actors are stockpiling encrypted data to take advantage of future breakthroughs called “harvest now, decrypt later” attacks.

Given the current Federal employment environment how will you grow the quantum workforce to help protect our economy from potential quantum attacks?

Mr. DABBAR. So the Secretary is very focused on post-quantum crypto efforts by NIST. We will continue and accelerate that. I have personal experience in this quantum topic.

The President’s letter to Director Kratsios also highlights this topic, and so I think we would love to work with you and the rest of the Senate to try to accelerate that with the next quantum bill amongst other program offices.

Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER. I will submit some more questions for the record on supply chains and also artificial intelligence.

And thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Senator Luján.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW MEXICO**

Senator LUJÁN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that very much.

Mr. Dabbar, thank you for being before us today.

The first question I have, Mr. Dabbar, is a continuation of something that my colleague was just inquiring about and having a conversation with you.

Congress appropriated over \$68 million to the MBDA. Are you aware what the MBDA is?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, I am, Senator.

Senator LUJÁN. Now, the \$68 million that was funded here is under the current funding bill. So this is recent. This is now.

So the agency could effectively carry out its mission to promote growth and expand economic opportunities.

But as you may be aware, and I will ask you if you are aware, Secretary Lutnick and the Trump administration have dismantled the MBDA. Are you aware of that?

Mr. DABBAR. I only know what I have picked up from the press.

Senator LUJÁN. You are here today to be a leader at the Department of Commerce. Have you taken time to study the Department of Commerce?

Mr. DABBAR. I certainly have but I do not know every detail at the Department right now and that is one of the ones that I do not know the details on the current stats.

Senator LUJÁN. What areas are you strongest in your knowledge base with the Department of Commerce?

Mr. DABBAR. Well, certainly the area of China security. As you know, I ran lab efforts in your state extensively as well as some of the nuclear operations. So the China topic, which I recently testified before ENR on about two months ago I think I have quite a lot of experience.

Obviously, I ran the bulk of the National Quantum Initiative. They built four number-one supercomputers. So while I was at DOE I ran WIPP.

So we also generated vast amounts of patents, as you know, under Bayh-Dole and Stevenson-Wydler. I could keep going, Senator, but those are a reasonable amount of things that I have quite a bit of exposure to.

Senator LUJÁN. In all of those responsibilities did you ever work with small businesses?

Mr. DABBAR. Absolutely, in particular at environmental management at DOE if you are—if you may remember the small business topic at DOE that certainly New Mexico was part of.

Senator LUJÁN. Is it fair to say you support small business success?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Senator.

Senator LUJÁN. I would encourage you to learn more about the MBDA. The MBDA was created to help with small business success, subcontracting with prime contracts. Looking at the major initiatives and investments that America has always had depends on success with small businesses.

The MBDA is one of its own—the only kind that exists to be able to provide more support, and I would argue it is the only one within the Department of Commerce. It is why there was broad support—bipartisan support—for this very small investment, I would argue, when you look at the United States budget—\$68 million.

And it is very concerning when the Secretary when he was here before us as a nominee said he also supported small businesses and he is leading efforts with Donald Trump to eliminate one of the components that exists and, I would argue, ignoring law.

This is in the laws that were passed by the legislative branch of government and one of the prime responsibilities. I am sure you have been asked by several of my colleagues about the MBDA today.

So my question simply is because this was under current funding is where did the money go. So do you know where the Department has diverted the millions of dollars Congress appropriated to the MBDA?

Mr. DABBAR. As I mentioned, Senator, I do not—I am not confirmed. I do not have, you know, insight into individual line item spending at the department right now.

Senator LUJÁN. So if confirmed, will you commit to tracing these funds and reporting back to this committee on where specifically our money—taxpayer money—for the MBDA has been rerouted?

Mr. DABBAR. I can absolutely commit that I have, and I have a long track record of being—of coming back in for oversight before the Senate and the House when I was Under Secretary and that I will continue to do that if I am so lucky to get your vote.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate that. I am looking for a specific commitment in this very narrow space.

Will you commit to tracing these funds and reporting back to this committee on where specifically this money has been rerouted?

Mr. DABBAR. I do not know if it has been rerouted or not, Senator, but when it comes to financial accountability for anything in the Department including that program you have my commitment.

Senator LUJÁN. Let me ask the question differently then if the word rerouted is what we are going to get hung up on. Will you commit to tracing these funds and reporting back to the Committee where they are?

Mr. DABBAR. Absolutely. About any funding at the Department you absolutely have my commitment that you will have proper feedback for oversight like I did when I was Under Secretary.

Senator LUJÁN. Does that include specifically this money for the MBDA—

Mr. DABBAR. I will certainly look into that, too, Senator. Yes.

Senator LUJÁN. Do you commit to getting back to this committee and reporting where the money is?

Mr. DABBAR. I will certainly—I will certainly look into it, and if you ask a question we will respond.

Senator LUJÁN. I am asking—I am asking right now will you commit to get back to—it is yes or no. It is not I am going to look into—I am going to theoretically try to figure out something. The money may be somewhere. It may have—rerouted is a word that clearly is a bit of distance between us.

Can you just say yes or no? If the answer is no the answer is no. I respect that.

Mr. DABBAR. I will commit to follow every dollar and report back as you request on anything in the Department.

Senator LUJÁN. I will be very surprised if you do not get confirmed, given the votes and the natures with all these confirmations. You will be in this role.

If you keep your word you will be back for oversight hearings and I am sharing with you right now I will be asking about it.

If I need to I will send a formal letter. I will ask all my colleagues that voted for this funding to get onto that letter so that one of the first letters that you have when you go and you sit at your new desk will be this question, if I can be clear about that. Is that clear?

Mr. DABBAR. It is clear and I would like to highlight that having run vast operations in your state including very, very sensitive environmental management topics in Carlsbad and at Los Alamos and quantum operations at Sandia, I think I have a large track

record with many, many people in your state on many topics in terms of all sorts of things including accountability.

Senator LUJÁN. Appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.
Senator Rosen.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JACKY ROSEN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEVADA**

Senator ROSEN. Well, before I begin my questions I want to—of course, thank you, Chair Cruz, and thank you to our nominee for your willingness to serve again.

But I want to associate myself with what Senator Luján has been speaking about because our MBDAs are very important in Nevada.

As you may or may not know, 99 percent of businesses in Nevada are small businesses, many of them minority businesses. We rely heavily on these services, and so I just want to support my colleague on that.

I am going to move on to something I know we also care about is our BEAD proposals. So Nevada's BEAD proposal was approved over 3 months ago. The Department of Commerce has still not released the \$417 million allocated to connect all Nevadans to high-speed reliable internet.

The proposal is tech neutral, cost effective, uses all of its funding to building broadband to reach 100 percent of unserved Nevadans—100 percent.

We have a rural frontier state, the most mountainous state in the lower 48. Each type of technology is used with over 10 percent of our unserved locations to be covered by satellite.

Nevada BEADs awards' average cost per location is so much lower than any federally funding broadband programs in the state in recent years.

So, Mr. Dabbar, I would like to just again ask you a simple yes or no question. If confirmed, will you commit to releasing the funding for the Nevada BEADs proposal?

It has been approved. It has been fully approved. It is tech neutral, cost effective. Fulfills the mission of bringing high-speed reliable broadband to every Nevadan.

Will you commit to releasing that funding, yes or no?

Mr. DABBAR. I will commit to certainly look at improving what has been going on—

Senator ROSEN. I will take that as a no then.

It has been approved.

Mr. DABBAR. I do not know, Senator. I apologize for not knowing the Nevada—

Senator ROSEN. It has been approved. So you are saying you are not going to release funding that has been approved?

Mr. DABBAR. If something has been fully approved then—

Senator ROSEN. It has been fully approved.

Mr. DABBAR—I would want to make certain that it is, Senator.

Senator ROSEN. It has been fully approved. I will go under oath and tell you it has been fully approved according to the proposal. The money has been frozen. Will you commit to unfreezing approved appropriated money by the United States Congress?

Mr. DABBAR. So, Senator, I feel very passionate about the BEAD program and the fact that the 14-step processes have not actually gotten to deployment to Nevada and elsewhere.

It has, obviously, been quite topical by many people, including a recent book. I agree with you on the general point that I think I hear from you amongst others about that process has not gone as well as it should have.

Senator ROSEN. The process—our process is complete. I am trying to be clear. It has been completed. It has been approved. The money is coming and now it is frozen.

So it is not that something is in process or under review or any of those things. This is a project that has been completed according to the appropriate specifications and approved. That is all.

Well, we will move on to extreme heat because I know—I am not going to spend my time fighting about this.

But Nevada is home to two of the fastest warming cities in the country, Las Vegas and Reno, and in 2024 our emergency rooms experienced a record number of visits for heat-related illnesses, and in southern Nevada alone over 500 people died as a result of extreme heat.

I know in Texas the Chairman's state is pretty hot too so you have some of these similar issues with extreme heat.

NOAA's CAP program builds community resilience to extreme weather and in Nevada it supports the Nevada Heat Lab which focuses on mitigating the effects of extreme heat and protecting families from extreme heat.

So if confirmed, would you support the continuation of programs like CAP that aim to address the challenges of extreme heat?

We just do not have them in Nevada. Like I said, Texas is known for being pretty hot in the summer, and what role do you think the Department of Commerce should have in helping us?

Mr. DABBAR. So NOAA has a broad set on a regional basis. A lot of them are university centric for drought and for heat.

Senator ROSEN. We have them both. We have both in Nevada.

Mr. DABBAR. And also there is—you know, there is some current work being done by what I would think is kind of lower tech but important things like planes, helicopters, balloons for some of the mapping and providing feedback and input to farmers and others around the topic.

And, you know, there is some prospect around using satellites, and I think moving the technology stack forward on your exact point, Senator, to get faster information, better information out of NOAA, moving up the technology stack is something I think would be very valuable for me to look at.

Senator ROSEN. Thank you. If the Chairman would indulge me for a question about tourism.

Thank you. I so appreciate it.

Travel and tourism are not only the backbone of Nevada's economy but I can tell you every single state in this Nation it is a top economic driver for us, supporting 15 million jobs nationwide, and international tourism contributes over \$180 billion alone toward the U.S. economy.

So in the coming years the U.S. is hosting several important, major international sporting events that attract visitors, of course,

from across the country but from around the world—this year's Formula One Grand Prix in Las Vegas to the FIFA World Cup in 2026 to the 2028 Summer Olympics. So much more.

Unfortunately, I have concerns that some of the recent administration's actions could make traveling to the U.S. a little harder, a little less attractive, at a crucial time for us to prioritize tourism, particularly the Olympics.

It is just such a shining light for everyone around the world and everybody looks forward to that.

So, Mr. Dabbar, if confirmed will you ensure that supporting travel and tourism is a priority at the Department of Commerce, understanding how important it is to our Nation within the Trump administration, and will you work with me to quickly confirm a qualified individual to serve as the first ever assistant secretary for travel and tourism?

That was a position I was proud to create through bipartisan legislation with Senators Wicker, Sullivan, Klobuchar, and many others on this committee?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Senator.

Senator ROSEN. Thank you. I appreciate it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Dabbar, there is reportedly a backlog of contracts awaiting approval at the Department of Commerce with only five or six being approved per day.

NOAA alone has 5,700 contracts set to expire this year. These contracts include everything from post-hurricane flood assessments to janitorial services.

Recently, NOAA came close to letting the contract expire for the advanced weather interactive processing system. The system is critical for weather forecasters to access weather data from satellites, radar, surface stations, and computer models and to issue weather warnings.

More recently, a data center at Texas A&M was shut down for several days because of bottlenecks in the department's contracting process, depriving Texas emergency and water managers of critical drought forecasts that helped them manage reservoirs and track storm surge data and hurricane forecasts in real time.

There are other critical contracts for Texas that are in Commerce's contracting backlogs such as routine maintenance repairs to NOAA's aging Hurricane Hunter fleet.

Can you commit to addressing the problems with the Department of Commerce contract process and resolving the backlog of contracts?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

The Department of Commerce plays an underappreciated role in U.S. science policy—something you have a great deal of experience with—emphasizing applied science, technology transfer, and commercialization to drive economic growth.

Given your experience managing national laboratories and advancing tech transfer at the Department of Energy, what lessons could the Commerce Department apply to better accelerate public-

private partnerships and the commercialization of federally funded R&D?

Mr. DABBAR. So, Senator, my kind of philosophy around Federal Government spending is it should be the equivalent of venture money. It should be the equivalent of triggering money to get the private sector moving in a certain direction.

Certainly, discovery science is a big part of it. But how do you translate it, as your question posed, is vitally important.

So taking a look at the structure around Bayh-Dole and Wydler-Stevenson that actually makes that possible. But how do we make that easier? And also how do we set up better communities for people to see what we have invented or supported invention either in the private sector or in the universities, and how do we make it easier for people to go do that is certainly something I did at DOE and would look to push that forward at Commerce.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. I look forward to working with you in that regard.

Finally, the United States has been a global leader in technological innovation due to our free enterprise system and strong rule of law.

Our nation's leadership in critical emerging technologies like artificial intelligence will hinge on whether we embrace entrepreneurial freedom or instead adopt a European style command and control regulatory scheme.

You correctly recognize that the United States must continue to outpace China and remain the global leader at AI. What is at risk if we go the direction of Europe and the Biden administration and adopt heavy-handed AI regulations requiring prior approval before new innovations can be implemented?

Mr. DABBAR. So the AI sector—a sector, but the AI applications are so darn broad everything from energy to agriculture to financial services, and I could keep going, is so wide that regulating something with that breadth and that width and people's ability to invent things across those and many other industries would impede economic progress and that whole sector, and productivity for the whole economy and the welfare for everyday American citizens. So free enterprise and allowing everyone to develop across those and every other industry is vitally important for a broad set of reasons.

The CHAIRMAN. During the Biden administration the National Institute of Standards and Technology—NIST—including the AI Safety Institute looked at the worst of the European Union tech regulation policing, quote, “misinformation” as a part of, quote, “measuring AI” and its, quote, “risks.” This was all nonsense.

If confirmed, how will you restore NIST to its apolitical statutory mission and eliminate Trojan horse social policy?

Mr. DABBAR. So NIST has certain strengths that it is, clearly, leader in the world—the ones on standards, ones on identifying the kind of the capabilities of certain technologies and measuring those.

And so those—you know, I think trying to have NIST stick to the traditional area that it does very well in versus expanding it into other areas I think that is probably the right way to go for NIST in this particular area.

The CHAIRMAN. Terrific. So my final question is required of all nominees.

If confirmed, do you pledge to work collaboratively with this committee to provide thorough and timely responses to the Committee's requests and to appear before the Committee when requested?

Mr. DABBAR. Yes, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

I have letters of support from various organizations for Mr. Dabbar's nomination and I ask unanimous consent for them to be inserted in the hearing record.

Without objection, so ordered.

[The information referred to follows:]

Dan R. Brouillette

15th United States Secretary of Energy
801 17th Street Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20006
210-913-0891

To: U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Russell Senate Office Building
2 Constitution Ave NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Attn: The Honorable Ted Cruz
U.S. Senator, Texas
Chairman

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senator, Washington
Ranking Member

Subject: Recommendation of Honorable Paul M. Dabbar to be US Deputy Secretary of Commerce

Dear Members of the Committee:

It is my distinct honor to provide my strongest recommendation for Paul M. Dabbar to serve as Deputy Secretary of Commerce. Throughout his distinguished career, Paul has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to navigate the intersection of finance, national security, energy, and advanced technology—a rare and invaluable combination of expertise that uniquely positions him to help lead the Department of Commerce in today's rapidly evolving global economy.

Paul's private-sector career is nothing short of exceptional. Over two decades at J.P. Morgan, he led more than \$400 billion in investment transactions that touched every sector of the energy market—from nuclear, solar, wind and thermal electricity generation and transmission to traditional oil and gas production—building a reputation as a strategic thinker with a deep understanding of global commerce and energy infrastructure. His leadership in commodity trading and financial strategy has directly shaped industry advancements, demonstrating both vision and execution at the highest levels.

Before his success in finance, Paul served as a nuclear submarine officer in the U.S. Navy, where he honed the discipline, precision, and strategic foresight that have defined his career. His service took him from Mare Island, California, to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and even to the North Pole for environmental research deployments. These experiences reflect his deep commitment to both national security and scientific discovery. They also provided him with a unique perspective on risk management, critical infrastructure, and technological innovation — each of which is central to the US Department of Commerce's mission.

During my tenure as both Deputy Secretary and Secretary of the US Department of Energy, Paul served as the department's Under Secretary for Science, where he oversaw the nation's largest scientific enterprise. Managing a \$15 billion annual budget and more than 60,000 personnel across over one hundred research sites and National Laboratories, his leadership was pivotal to advancing U.S. global preeminence in high-performance computing. His efforts led to the launch of the Summit supercomputer, the Exascale computing program, and the AI for Science Initiative —each of which laid the foundation for breakthroughs in semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and quantum technology. He also played a vital role in one of the largest environmental remediation efforts in U.S. history, managing a \$500 billion nuclear cleanup portfolio with unequalled strategic oversight. Additionally, he championed the National Quantum Initiative Act, which quintupled federal investment in quantum research and led to the development of the Quantum Internet Blueprint, cementing America's superiority in next-generation computing.

Since leaving the DOE, Paul has continued to drive transformative progress. As Co-founder and CEO of Bohr Quantum Technology, a Caltech spinout, he is pioneering quantum networking—a foundational step toward the development of a quantum internet. His influence extends into academia, where he serves as a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy. He also contributes thought leadership to major publications such as *The Wall Street Journal*.

Paul's career reflects a rare ability to bridge the worlds of finance, military service, technology, and public policy. His remarkable ability to manage high-stakes, multi-billion-dollar projects, coupled with his unwavering commitment to national security, innovation, and economic growth, makes him an outstanding choice for Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

In an era where technological advancement and economic strategy are inseparable, America needs leaders with both vision and firsthand proficiency. Paul's unparalleled experience, strategic mindset, and lifelong dedication to public service make him distinctively qualified to help shape the future of American commerce and technology policy.

I have full confidence that Paul M. Dabbar will bring extraordinary leadership, integrity, and transformative thinking to the Department of Commerce, and I urge you to support his nomination and confirm him for this vital role.

Sincerely,



Dan R. Brouillette
Former US Secretary of Energy

The Honorable James (Rick) Perry
 47th Governor of Texas
 14th Secretary of Energy

To: U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Russell Senate Office Building
 2 Constitution Ave NE
 Washington, D.C. 20002

Attn: The Honorable Ted Cruz
 U.S. Senator, Texas
 Chairman

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
 U.S. Senator, Washington
 Ranking Member

Subject: Recommendation for the Honorable Paul M. Dabbar's nomination for Deputy Secretary of Commerce

Dear Members of the Committee:

I would like to recommend to your committee the former U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") Under Secretary for Science Paul Dabbar, for the position of Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of Commerce ("Commerce"). Based on his wide experience across the scope the of the Commerce Department, and significant achievements in the U.S. government, the private sector, and the military, he is significantly qualified for the position he has been nominated for.

I have known Paul since 2017, when I recommended him to the President to be my Under Secretary to run our country's National Labs and several other areas of DOE. Before my selection, I had many discussions with people who had worked with Paul during his career, and he was uniformly recommended by all I contacted.

Paul was able to garner significant support for his past nomination, and the U.S. Senate approved his nomination via unanimous consent as the nation's fourth Under Secretary for Science. He was the Department's leader on fundamental energy research & technologies, science, and commercialization of technologies. He managed over 60,000 people with an annual budget of \$15 billion at over 100 sites, managing the majority of the U.S. National Labs, the crown jewels of research for America which were the core of the Manhattan Project, including Oak Ridge, Lawrence Berkeley, Stanford SLAC, Princeton Plasma, Argonne, Fermi and Brookhaven National Labs. Paul also ran our university grant program, funding research at universities in all fifty states. He also ran the Environmental Management program, managing over \$500 billion in nuclear liabilities resulting from nuclear weapons and nuclear power operations. He completed several multi-billion dollar construction projects, including many ahead of schedule and under budget, a particularly high achievement in the challenging area of nuclear construction.

Important accomplishments during his leadership included construction and commissioning of the #1 supercomputer in the world, named Summit, at Oak Ridge National Lab, which allowed the U.S. to regain the top spot in computing from China. He also led the next generation supercomputing program, which subsequently commissioned the next three top supercomputers in the world, extending America's leadership in semiconductors and artificial intelligence. Paul also helped lead the passage of the National Quantum Initiative Act, and subsequently led the majority of the implementation of the Act as Under Secretary. The Act quintupled quantum technology investment, and Paul led government support for developing quantum computers, networks and sensor technologies.

During his tenure, researchers at our National Labs and funded by his offices won many Nobel Prizes in physics and chemistry. Nobel's won during his time at DOE included for the discovery of the lithium-ion battery chemistry, development of the theory of dark energy and the expansion of the universe, and the discovery of gene-editing/CRISPR Cas9 which has revolutionized medicine.

Finally, Paul was awarded the Secretary of Energy's senior DOE award, the James R. Schlesinger Medal, for leadership on developing energy technologies, discovery science, environmental management, and the National Quantum Initiative.

Paul has continued to show great leadership post his time as Under Secretary. He became a start up CEO, co-founding Bohr Quantum Technology, a spin out of Caltech, developing and deploying quantum networking technologies for the emerging quantum internet. He was also appointed a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Columbia University, has been a regular writer for the Wall Street Journal editorial pages, and a technology and energy technology investor and board member.

Paul has significant experience of the scope of the Commerce Department. He has extensive experience in the areas of NIST, USPTO, BIS, and NOAA. He also has been a leader in computing and semiconductors when he was Under Secretary, as well as quantum. He

also had strong experience in the public and private sectors in trade, in particular in the key areas of energy, critical minerals and technology, including during his 21 years as a senior officer at J.P.Morgan.

As a fellow veteran who went into civilian public service after my time in the military, I know that service to the nation is great calling. Paul has clearly achieved greatly in the areas of command, citizenship, and service for the nation. He has clearly demonstrated he is deserving confirmation for the role of Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

Rick Perry



March 13, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
 Chairman
 Committee on Commerce, Science, and
 Transportation
 United States Senate

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
 Ranking Member
 Committee on Commerce, Science, and
 Transportation
 United States Senate

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

The [Quantum Industry Coalition](#) (QIC) is a group of companies dedicated to maintaining the United States' leadership in the development and commercialization of quantum technologies. Our members range from start-ups to Fortune 100 companies focusing on a variety of aspects of quantum technology, including hardware, software, and application development.

We write in strong support of President Trump's nomination of Paul Dabbar to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce. Mr. Dabbar served admirably in the first Trump Administration as Under Secretary for Science in the Department of Energy, where he helped advance U.S. quantum leadership. His distinguished career also includes service as a nuclear submarine officer in the Navy, which provides him with an important perspective on the military value of quantum computers, sensors, networks, and cryptography. QIC also values Mr. Dabbar's strong business background, including his role as a managing director at J.P. Morgan and Co. and particularly his leadership of Bohr Quantum Technology.

The Department of Commerce plays an integral role in advancing U.S. quantum leadership. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), within the Department, is a core agency of the National Quantum Initiative. We look forward to Mr. Dabbar's work alongside Secretary Lutnick to ensure that NIST proactively supports U.S. quantum research and development. More broadly, the Department helps ensure that U.S. quantum companies have a level international playing field on which to compete, and that export controls are fair and effective.

We urge that the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee move quickly to place Mr. Dabbar's nomination before the full Senate, where we trust his nomination will be confirmed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Paul Stimers'.

Paul Stimers
 Executive Director
 Quantum Industry Coalition
www.quantumindustrycoalition.com



Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307

Ernest J. Moniz
Cecil and Ida Green Professor of Physics and
Engineering Systems (emeritus)
Special Advisor to the MIT President

Building E19-306
Phone 617-253-7515
emoniz@mit.edu

March 26, 2025

Senator Ted Cruz
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Russell Senate Office Building, 167
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Hart Senate Office Building, 511
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cruz and Cantwell:

I am very pleased to write in support of the nomination of Paul M. Dabbar as the next Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

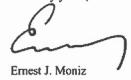
I came to know Paul when he served as Undersecretary for Science in the Department of Energy during President Trump's first term. I had earlier served as Secretary of Energy and filled that role with a strong commitment to science and technology, a thread that runs through all the major missions that DOE is responsible for (energy, science, nuclear security, nuclear environmental cleanup). Paul and I shared this deep interest in the science and technology capabilities of the Department and its seventeen national laboratories and understood the importance of the cutting-edge research capabilities that they offer to about thirty thousand American scientists and engineers – from labs, universities, private sector – annually. The DOE is a very important contributor to the world-leading American innovation system, and Paul was an excellent steward of that national resource.

Paul assumed this role after about a decade in investment banking, with direct experience in the energy and defense sectors. His energy engagements were “all of the above,” positioning him well for the DOE and now for Commerce as well. His background allowed him considerable insight into technology commercialization, an area of clear importance for the Department of Commerce’s promotion of the U.S. private sector. Indeed, his responsibilities at DOE gave him direct visibility into numerous Department of Commerce functions that are important to science and technology advancement, application and commercialization: the National Institute of Standards and Technology; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the Bureau of Industry and Security; the U.S. Patent Office.

Since Paul left DOE in early 2021, we have remained in contact, principally because of the shared interest in advanced technology for energy and security. He is directly engaged with a major utility (Dominion), metal organic framework technology (Air Joule Technologies) and quantum information systems (Bohr Quantum Technology Corporation). The last of these is one of the early-stage enabling technologies that will underpin American competitiveness in the long term. We also discussed nuclear fusion technologies a number of times, another gamechanger on the horizon. All of this is to say that Paul has a passion for bringing new technologies to bear on important national and global challenges and to commercialization.

Paul Dabbar is much appreciated for his constructive approach to problem-solving. I am confident that he will dig deeply into all aspects of the job of Deputy Secretary of Commerce and will serve the nation well in that role. I am happy to endorse Paul Dabbar's nomination as Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernest J. Moniz".

Ernest J. Moniz

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Date: April 8, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz,
Chair, Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Committee on
Commerce, Science and
Transportation
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC

We, as former Department of Energy laboratory directors, would like to add our voices of support to the nomination of Paul Dabbar to the position of the United States Deputy Secretary for Commerce.

We both had the pleasure of working with Paul when he was the fourth Under Secretary for Science in the DoE between 2017 and 2021. Chi-Chang Kao was the Director of SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, managed by Stanford University, at that time. Persis Drell, former Director of SLAC, was Stanford's Provost at the time. Paul's service as Under Secretary was distinguished by his unwavering commitment to fundamental science and innovation in this country. During Paul's time at DoE, both the agency and science flourished. Paul recognized good ideas and invested in them.

Working with Paul we both deeply appreciated our interactions with him. He was open and consulted broadly, allowing us to both understand policies and to support them to be effective. In addressing the inevitable challenges that would arise, he worked with all the contractors and laboratory directors to ensure that whatever steps were taken by the department would, to the greatest extent possible, support the mission of the agency while still addressing the challenges we were facing.

It is a pleasure to support Paul Dabbar's nomination to further serve his nation as United States Deputy Secretary for Commerce.

Respectfully,



Persis S. Drell
Laboratory Director, Emerita
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory



Chi-Chang Kao
Laboratory Director, Emeritus
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory



April 29, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
 Chairman
 Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
 Ranking Member
 Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), I am writing to express our strong support for the nomination of Paul Dabbar to serve as Deputy Secretary of Commerce. SIIA is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industries, representing global leaders in technology, data, and innovation.

If confirmed, Mr. Dabbar would play an integral role in overseeing agencies within the Department of Commerce — including the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the International Trade Administration (ITA) — that are critical to advancing policy to advance artificial intelligence (AI), facilitate digital trade and cross-border data flows, protect sensitive technologies, and promote U.S. technology and innovation abroad. These issues are of paramount importance to our membership. The efforts of NIST, for example, have helped to advance U.S. leadership in AI by providing a framework for secure and reliable AI that has been the envy of the world. In addition, the USPTO's commitment to ensuring strong patent quality is fundamental to supporting both our members' innovation and the broader competitiveness of the U.S. economy.

At a time when American leadership in AI and emerging technologies is critical to our economic future and global standing, Mr. Dabbar's experience and vision make him exceptionally well-suited for this role. As former Under Secretary for Science at the Department of Energy, Mr. Dabbar spearheaded efforts to advance and strengthen U.S. energy technologies, bolstering science and technology innovation ecosystems — efforts that are foundational to maintaining our edge amid intensifying global competition, particularly with China.

Mr. Dabbar's private sector experience also positions him well for the role. His leadership roles at J.P. Morgan and as CEO and co-founder of Bohr Quantum Technology company

SIIA.NET

reflect a deep understanding of how innovation moves from research to real-world impact. He knows firsthand the opportunities and challenges facing American innovators and entrepreneurs, and he recognizes the importance of public-private collaboration in securing U.S. technological leadership. Our over 350 members will appreciate Mr. Dabbar's deep understanding of the innovation lifecycle and commitment to working closely with industry, as Mr. Dabbar understands that leadership in AI, data, and advanced technology is not just an economic imperative but a national priority. His demonstrated commitment to fostering public-private collaboration and ensuring that the United States remains the global hub for technological development will be invaluable to the Commerce Department's mission.

SIIA is confident that Mr. Dabbar's leadership will help secure America's technological competitiveness and drive forward policies that bolster innovation and ensure the United States remains at the forefront of the global economy. We encourage his swift confirmation.

Thank you for considering our views.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher A. Mohr
President
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)

The CHAIRMAN. Senators will have until the close of business on Friday, May 2, to submit questions for the record. The nominee will have until the close of business on Monday, May 5, to respond to those questions. So you will have a busy weekend.

That concludes today's hearing. The Committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:44 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TED CRUZ TO PAUL DABBAR

Question 1. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory and National Severe Storms Laboratory lead research to improve the Federal government's hurricane and tornado forecasts. Hurricane forecasting has improved but is far from perfect, as tragically demonstrated by Hurricane Helene, which resulted in over 250 deaths across six states last year.

a. How will you leverage NOAA's labs to improve storm forecasting and save American lives?

Answer. The tragic impacts of Hurricane Helene serve as a sobering reminder of the stakes involved in timely and accurate storm forecasting. NOAA's labs, including the AOML and the NSSL represent critical assets in advancing the science that underpins forecasts and warnings. Continued support for innovation, workforce expertise, and mission-driven science will help ensure that forecasting improvements translate into meaningful benefits for communities at risk.

Question 2. My hometown of Houston was hit hard by Hurricane Harvey. Fortunately, the accurate hurricane path predictions provided by the National Weather Service, which incorporated data from the Hurricane Hunters flown by the NOAA Corps, helped emergency management prepare for the hurricane and save lives. These aircraft provide vital data that satellites and drones cannot capture. NOAA only has three Hurricane Hunter aircraft and a limited number of pilots who fly very long hours. A March 2025 GAO report (GAO-25-107210), which I requested, reviews the challenges faced by NOAA's Hurricane Hunter fleet.

a. How will you ensure the Department of Commerce complies with Chapter 8549 of Title 15, United States Code, which requires NOAA to "acquire backup for the capabilities of the WP-3D Orion and G-IV hurricane aircraft of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that is sufficient to prevent a single point of failure," as well as Pub. L. 117-263, which requires NOAA to "maintain the ability of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to meet agency air reconnaissance and research mission requirements by acquiring new aircraft prior to the end of the service life of the aircraft being replaced with sufficient lead time that the replacement aircraft is fully operation [sic] prior to the retirement of the aircraft it is replacing?"

Answer. I recognize the vital role Hurricane Hunter aircraft play in protecting lives and property through accurate and timely forecasts. I will work with NOAA to ensure that they meet the statutory requirements in order to maintain these capabilities.

Question 3. Last year, an activist Maryland judge vacated NOAA's existing biological opinion for the then-Gulf of Mexico. NOAA must file a new biological opinion on offshore work in the Gulf by May 21, 2025. If this does not occur, oil and gas operations in the Gulf could be shut down.

a. Will you hold NOAA's feet to the fire and make sure it meets the May 21st deadline for re-issuing this biological opinion, if confirmed before then?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with NOAA to ensure that they meet the May 21st deadline. I understand that the biological opinion is essential to avoiding disruption to vital oil and gas operations in the Gulf of America, which play a key role in the Nation's energy security and economy. Timely completion is critical to providing the certainty the industry needs while maintaining environmental compliance.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. ROGER WICKER TO
PAUL DABBAR

NOAA Cooperative Institutes

The Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute (OECI) was established in 2019, with five institutions, University of Southern Mississippi, University of Rhode Island, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, University of New Hampshire, and Ocean Exploration Trust, bringing together world-class talent, expertise, enterprise, and experience. Through OECI, members leveraged resources, infrastructure, and intellectual focus in its national effort to discover nearly four million square miles of submerged U.S. territory. With NOAA, and other Federal and industry partners, OECI explores the unknown parts of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for the explicit purpose of advancing prosperity of the United States.

The Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute has and continues to support the Trump Administration's priorities through U.S. leadership in ocean exploration and technology development. The OECI is the go-to for critical minerals discovery in the ocean due their expertise with long-endurance autonomous surface and subsurface vehicles. This work is accelerated through public-private partnerships with industry.

Question 1. What are your priorities for further implementation of public-private partnerships with NOAA Cooperative Institutes? How do you plan to utilize your authorities to incentivize innovative ocean research and training in the United States?

Answer. Ocean exploration, mapping, and characterization of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and beyond are critical to advancing national interests, from scientific discovery to economic development. Public-private partnerships offer opportunities to accelerate innovation and expand capacity in ocean science and technology. As part of this effort, there should be a careful assessment of how Cooperative Institutes can help achieve these goals and support NOAA's broader mission through research, training, and collaboration.

Oceans and Fisheries Data Collection

Background: The Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) is the Nation's leading resource for community-driven coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes sensor information. This vital program supports a vast network of buoys, gliders, high frequency radars, and other sensors that monitor U.S. waters. This efficient, reliable, and cost-effective system supports emergency preparedness, underpins a thriving blue economy, and bridges the gap between scientific research, federally certified data, and sound management. Recently, the Gulf Coast Ocean Observing System funded a project to modernize High Frequency Radar stations to enhance Coast Guard search and rescue operations. IOOS deploys, operates, and maintains more than 300 observing assets at 11 Regional Associations. It supports 17 Federal agencies, including NOAA, where the IOOS program office is headquartered. The IOOS program was reauthorized unanimously in 2020 and signed into law by President Trump.

In addition to IOOS, the Gulf Maritime Fisheries Commission and other regional fisheries commissions work with NOAA to collect critical data for fisheries management. The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's cooperative agreement with NOAA expired on March 31 and a renewal agreement is under review. Until a renewal is in place, the commission cannot fully distribute funds to the state partners and contractors who do the on-the-ground data collection. While the commission is extending some limited resources to provide for short-term operations, I am concerned that a delayed review would cause significant disruptions in the collection of fish stock data. Such disruptions would have a negative impact on fisheries and coastal communities in the Gulf of America.

Question 2. The Integrated Ocean Observing System, or IOOS, and the Gulf Marine Fisheries Commission collect essential scientific observations like ocean, weather, and fish stock data to support navigation, forecasting, and fishing. Would you agree that it should be priority to maintain critical data collection programs which monitor U.S. waters?

Answer. Collecting high-quality ocean, coastal, and fisheries data is critical to supporting safe navigation, accurate forecasting, effective resource management, and the broader blue economy. The value of maintaining continuity in these data collection activities is well recognized and will continue to be an important consideration.

Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program

Background: The Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a public-private partnership that provides resources to manufacturers, to advance U.S. manufacturing. The program is based at the National Institute of Standards and Technology

(NIST). The MEP program was created in 1988 by the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act to improve the competitiveness of U.S.-based manufacturing by making manufacturing technologies, processes and services more accessible to small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) through MEP Centers in every state and Puerto Rico. The MEP Centers provide expertise to help manufacturers reduce costs, create new products, develop the next generation workforce, find new markets and achieve business success. The MEP program office provides Federal funding to 51 Centers located in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. As a public-private partnership, the MEP National Network helped manufacturers achieve \$15 billion in new and retained sales, \$5 billion in new client investments, \$2.6 billion in cost savings and over 108,000 jobs created or retained in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.

At the beginning of April, NIST notified 10 MEP centers, including the Mississippi Manufacturers Association-Manufacturing Extension Partnership, that it was not going to renew its funding for the centers. On April 15, NIST announced that after further review, it would renew funding for the 10 centers until the end of the Fiscal Year as the Department reviews the program.

Question 3. President Trump rightly wants to revive American manufacturing and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program under NIST helps achieve just that by providing targeted investments to small and medium sized manufacturing businesses. As the Department of Commerce reviews its programs, will you commit to supporting critical initiatives to grow domestic manufacturing?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to working to support President Trump's and Secretary Lutnick's efforts to grow domestic manufacturing.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN TO
PAUL DABBAR

Question 1. U.S. advancement of quantum technology is critical for our Nation to compete on the global stage, but without a coordinated effort at the Federal level, we risk falling behind our adversaries. The results of failure would be disastrous for our Nation. What do you view as the most important pieces of a National Quantum Initiative Reauthorization bill, and will you commit to prioritizing advancing quantum innovation in your role at the Department of Commerce?

Answer. Quantum is a technology that can define the success of our Nation and the quality of our lives and is highly prioritized by President Trump and Secretary Lutnick. I join them in committing to advance our quantum success through wise investment in research, including efforts to speed commercialization of American-developed technology.

Question 2. Before the National Quantum Initiative lapsed, I convened industry and government for a roundtable to discuss priorities for the reauthorization and we heard a great deal about siloing and a lack of coordination between the departments. We all need to be on the same page if we're going to win the quantum race and defeat China. In your view, what do we need to do to make certain the reauthorization improves agency to agency collaboration?

Answer. As a former Under Secretary of Energy charged with science and research responsibilities, I am keenly aware of the need and advantages for agencies to coordinate quantum research and innovation work. If confirmed, I look forward to regular engagement with agency leaders across the government to ensure that we achieve quantum success at the fastest reasonable pace.

Question 3. Our allies and adversaries are building quantum and hybrid applications today to tackle a wide variety of issues across industries—including optimization of manufacturing, drug discovery, supply chain, and more. And they are doing it quickly. For example, the UK has called for applications that could be developed and deployed in 18 months or less. I've reintroduced my Quantum Sandbox for Near Term Applications Act, which would provide more opportunity for public-private partnerships to develop quantum pilot programs, test demonstrations and proofs of concept within 24 months. Do you support added focus on near-term application development and deployment?

Answer. Our natural principal focus should be on research that rapidly develops commercially-available quantum technology. Preparing for deployment of American-developed quantum technology to customers should be part of the effort in order to ensure our Nation's continued technological lead.

Question 4. I have also recently reintroduced my Advancing Quantum Manufacturing Act, which would establish a Manufacturing USA Institute for Quantum Manufacturing. In his first 100 days, President Trump has been focused on bringing American manufacturing back home. Technology is one of the keys to onshoring

manufacturing—enabling faster, more efficient, and cheaper transitions. No technology has more promise in this area than quantum. When applied to manufacturing, quantum will increase energy efficiency, advance robotics, secure our communications, design stronger materials, and improve our supply chain logistics. So, can you elaborate on the need for quantum applications in manufacturing, and will you commit to working with me to establish a Manufacturing USA Institute for Quantum Manufacturing?

Answer. Quantum is one of the few technologies that will determine continued manufacturing success for our Nation and the quality of life for our citizens. I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Question 5. The Biden administration's NTIA BEAD program added partisan requirements to the program that went beyond the letter of the law and were never envisioned by Congress, including burdensome climate change mandates on infrastructure projects, mandates for unionized labor, and overhanded attempts to control broadband rates. We need to ramp up broadband deployment by cutting red tape—especially where infrastructure already exists—and letting contractors do what they do best. How will you work to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently, empowering states to partner with broadband providers to reach unserved and underserved communities without further delays?

Answer. It is unacceptable that the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program has been bogged down by burdensome regulations. If confirmed, I will work with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to the states, and expand broadband buildout, consistent with the law.

Question 6. If confirmed as Deputy Secretary of Commerce, you will play a key role in managing U.S. spectrum policy. Will you commit to review currently held government spectrum and ensure it is used efficiently and put to its best use?

Answer. Yes.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. DAN SULLIVAN TO
PAUL DABBAR

Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act

Salmon is a way of life in Alaska and a primary food source for many in the state. Fisheries closures and depressed stocks shake the foundation of our daily lives.

Luckily, you've got a basis to work on. My Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act was signed into law in 2022 and had NOAA collaborate with salmon experts in Alaska to chart a path forward to research why we are seeing such variability in the abundance of salmon.

The report was released last summer with suggestions of discrete, meaningful research projects that we can undertake to get to the bottom of this issue.

Question 1. Mr. Dabbar, can you commit to working with me to prioritize and build upon the work we have started to better understand why our salmon runs are decreasing in Alaska?

Answer. The significance of salmon to Alaska's way of life and food security is fully recognized, and understanding the causes behind declining runs is an important priority. The work initiated under the Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act provides a strong platform, and the recommendations outlined in the report present clear opportunities for further research. I look forward to working with you to build on this foundation and advance efforts to better understand and address the issue.

Consultation

Mr. Dabbar, the previous administration had a history of taking unilateral executive actions that affected our state—to my count 70—executive orders and actions that affected Alaska. On the vast majority of those, neither our Congressional delegation nor our state were consulted.

Question 2. Can you commit to consulting with our office before your agency takes any action that would directly affect my state and my constituents?

Answer. Alaska contributes significantly to the Nation through its fisheries, minerals, energy resources, and unique ecosystems. Given this importance, it will be my priority to engage with your office to gain insight and perspective on actions that directly affect the state or its communities.

Data and Technology

Data and technology are critical drivers of our Nation's economy, and I commend this administration for its focus on unleashing technology and innovation. As Alaskans know firsthand, nowhere is this more important than in our coasts and oceans.

During President Trump's first term he released the EO 13921, "*Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic growth.*" This EO highlights the need for improved data collection, including improved fisheries data and modernized data collection. The economic basis our fisheries rely on thorough and up-to-date survey data. However, NOAA and NMFS staff must be available, and contracts signed in a timely manner, in order for these surveys to happen on time. As of today, we are seeing serious uncertainty.

Question 3. As Deputy Secretary of Commerce, will you commit to empowering NOAA to continue its important work in improved ocean and fisheries data collection, and accelerate the deployment of innovative marine technologies to enhance economic growth, maritime safety, and national security?

Answer. There is strong alignment between the goals of economic growth, maritime safety, and national security and the need for timely and accurate ocean and fisheries data. The role of data and technology in supporting America's coastal and ocean-based industries, particularly in regions like Alaska, is well recognized. If confirmed, I will work with NOAA to ensure that it continues its important work in this area.

Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness

Over the last several years, the U.S. seafood industry has experienced significant economic hardship and drastic declines, primarily due to unfair and predatory practices from Russia and China. In addition, a strong NOAA and National Marine Fisheries Service—along with a dedicated, professional workforce—is critical to revamping the industry to further the goals of the President's EO 14276, *Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness* to help our fishermen. This EO provides a roadmap to restore the U.S. domestic fishing industry to greatness. To accomplish this, U.S. fishermen need robust fish surveys to inform accurate stock assessments; and timely promulgation of regulations to manage—and open—fisheries.

There is a concern that some of these important Alaska surveys will not happen this year. There is a reason these surveys take place, and we need to make sure that adequate personnel who conduct survey and regulatory work are available and funded *not just this year*, but in future years.

Question 4. Will you commit to ensuring that NOAA personnel and funding is available at sufficient levels to support the needs of our hard-working fishermen and meet the demands of our President's mission to unleash Alaska's extraordinary resource potential and restore American seafood competitiveness?

Answer. The U.S. seafood industry, especially in Alaska, plays a vital role in the Nation's economy, and the impacts of unfair foreign practices have only underscored the need to strengthen our domestic capabilities. Executive Order 14276 lays out a clear path to restore American seafood competitiveness, and achieving that vision requires reliable fishery surveys, timely stock assessments, and responsive regulatory action. If confirmed, ensuring NOAA supports these critical activities will remain a priority to fully realize the potential of Alaska's resources.

Program Funds, Grants, and Contracts Approvals

There are several programs, grants, and contracts that fall under the Department of Commerce's review that benefit the state of Alaska. These cover a vast number of topics supporting areas such as fisheries development, scientific research, and marine mammal rescue and stranding response. I understand that one such grant is held up has major implications in my state.

For example, a NOAA Prescott Grant has been submitted by the Alaska SeaLife Center, located in Seward, Alaska. The Alaska SeaLife Center is important not only as a public aquarium, but for its marine mammal research and care capabilities. It is also the number two private employer in Seward after the hospital. The SeaLife Center attracts a large volume of visitors due to cruise ships and other tourism opportunities that Seward receives. The grant funds provide the Center the necessary rescue, care and recovery of stranded marine mammals in Alaska. In fact, they are the only entity that has the authority and capability to carry out this work in the state. This grant has been reviewed and approved by NOAA but still awaits final approval by the Department of Commerce.

Question 5. Mr. Dabbar, I ask that you commit to ensuring the disbursement of approved funds and approval of program grants finalized so these important entities can continue to support the economic growth and opportunities necessary for my state—both which meet the mission of the Department of Commerce?

Answer. The Alaska SeaLife Center clearly provides valuable contributions to marine research, wildlife response, and local economic development in Seward and the broader region. If confirmed, I commit to give all funding decisions the appropriate consideration in my role as Deputy Secretary.

Russian Seafood Reciprocity

Russia has banned U.S. seafood from its markets since 2014. However, for many years, Russia was not subject to any special import duties in the U.S. Meanwhile, Russia has drastically increased seafood production since 2022 and is openly working to flood both U.S. and global markets with cheap seafood to push out U.S. product.

All the while, our hardworking fishermen could not export a single fish to Russia. For nearly 10 years, we allowed them to do this until I was finally successful in getting the previous Administration to issue a couple of executive orders to put a stop to this and restore reciprocity. If we can't enter the Russian market, they shouldn't be able to flood ours.

EO 14068 in 2022 banned imports of Russian seafood. However, Russia laundered their seafood through China to circumvent the ban. EO 14114 in 2023 closed this loophole and made it abundantly clear than any seafood harvested in Russia is banned from import into the U.S.—even if it goes through processing in another country.

Russia is our biggest competitor in a lot of the seafood market, and just like China, they don't play fair. We are finally beginning to see this ban have effects on the market. American importers are beginning to buy Alaskan "Freedom Fish" instead of Russian "Communist Fish" and prices are beginning to stabilize for our fishermen.

This is about fair trade and reciprocity—not the war in Ukraine.

Question 6. Mr. Dabbar, will you commit to keeping these reciprocal executive orders—EO 14068 and EO 14114—in place? They are critical to keeping our seafood trade fair.

Answer. Russia's longstanding refusal to allow U.S. seafood into its markets, while expanding access to ours, has harmed American fishermen, especially in Alaska where seafood is vital to the economy. Executive Orders 14068 and 14114 were important steps to restore fair trade by banning Russian seafood imports and closing transshipment loopholes. These actions are showing positive effects, stabilizing markets and supporting U.S. producers. Ensuring fair and reciprocal trade remains a key priority of this Administration.

AK LNG

The Alaska LNG [liquefied natural gas] Project, a proposed 800-mile natural gas pipeline to transport natural gas from the Alaska North Slope to the Kenai Peninsula for the purposes of in-state energy security and the export of LNG to our Asian allies, with an export capacity of 20 million metric tons of gas per year, is a priority of the President of the United States.

Executive Order 14153 entitled "Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential" states in section 2 that, "it is the policy of the United States to . . . prioritize the development of Alaska's liquefied natural gas (LNG) potential, including the sale and transportation of Alaskan LNG to other regions of the United States and allied nations within the Pacific region."

Section 3(ii)(a) of President Trump's Executive Order 14153 entitled "Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential" directs "The heads of all executive departments and agencies, including but not limited to the Secretary of the Interior; the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere; and the Secretary of the Army acting through the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Public Works, shall exercise all lawful authority and discretion available to them and take all necessary steps to (ii) prioritize the development of Alaska's LNG potential, including the permitting of all necessary pipeline and export infrastructure related to the Alaska LNG Project, giving due consideration to the economic and national security benefits associated with such development."

Additionally, in President Trump's March 4, 2025, Address to a Joint Session of Congress, he mentioned Japanese and Korean interest surrounding an investment into the project.

Furthermore, Section 3(f) of Executive Order 141453 states "The Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, shall immediately review, revise or rescind any agency action that may in any way hinder, slow or otherwise delay any critical project in the State of Alaska."

Question 7. Mr. Dabbar, can you commit to using your role as Deputy Secretary of Commerce to implement the President's executive orders on Alaskan energy?

Answer. Yes.

China Phase One Agreement

We all know that China lies and does not follow through on its promises—what I refer to as promise fatigue. During President Trump's first term, I worked closely with him and his team on the first phase of the *Economic and Trade Agreement Between the United States of American and the People's Republic of China*. Under that agreement, China was supposed to double its purchases of American seafood over 4 years, moving from about an \$800 million baseline in 2017 and amounting to about \$400 million annually.

For the first two years after the agreement, China's purchases actually decreased. Four years later, their purchases are still about 7.8 percent below pre-COVID levels. This latest lie from the Chinese government is dramatically hurting our hard-working American fishermen.

Question 8. Mr. Dabbar, if you end up reengaging with China on this issue, will you commit to bringing this up and pushing to hold the Chinese to their end of the agreement?

Answer. Upon confirmation, I will work with the Secretary and others to ensure the Department takes a holistic approach in addressing the U.S.-China trading relationship, including consideration of past practices and behaviors by the Chinese government. I will work diligently to ensure our trading partners fully comply with all terms of our agreements.

Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD)—Discard Extraneous Requirements

In October, NTIA announced that Alaska will be obligated over \$1 billion. I know you are aware of the criticisms that have been made that the Biden Administration layered on requirements that are beyond the IIJA law in the BEAD NOFO.

Question 9. Will you commit to remove the Biden-era extraneous regulations as you review the BEAD program, and do so quickly as time is money for applicants?

Answer. Yes.

BEAD—Empower the State

The BEAD program's success depends on allowing states to lead. Alaska knows best where broadband is lacking and understands the challenges presented by our low population density, extreme weather, and difficult terrain. Federal requirements should not impose one-size-fits-all solutions but instead empower states to design deployment strategies that work for their specific circumstances.

Question 10. Will you commit to me that NTIA will defer to states in making choices that they believe will deliver the best possible broadband for their consumers and communities given the amount of funding they have?

Answer. Yes.

BEAD Technology Neutral and Needs

The unique challenges due to our vast, remote, and rugged terrain make technology neutrality truly critical to serving Alaskans. We need a combination of technologies to be available, including fiber, fixed wireless, and satellite. Notably, Alaska lacks middle mile fiber, and these projects play a critical role bridging the gap between core Internet networks and local communities. Given Alaska's vast and remote geography, reliable middle mile infrastructure is essential to connecting underserved and unserved areas and for supporting healthcare, education, and economic development. By addressing the unique challenges of Alaska terrain, middle mile fiber ensures Internet access for generations to come. If a one-sized-fits-all per location cap is put in place for fiber for projects in Alaska, it is hard to imagine how any projects will be built for my constituents.

Question 11. Will you commit to working with me to ensure that resources are allocated in a manner that takes into consideration the needs of Alaskans?

Answer. Yes.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. MARIA CANTWELL TO
PAUL DABBAR

Secretary Lutnick's stewardship of the Department of Commerce (DOC, Department, Commerce)

As I mentioned in my opening statement, the Commerce Department has been in a state of chaos and disruption since Secretary Lutnick's confirmation. Not only is the Secretary failing to honor commitments he made to this Committee; I believe he is also failing to focus on the Department's core mission and workforce.

According to recent press reports, Secretary Lutnick is spending much of his time these days at the White House—not the Commerce Department. And by all accounts, he is focused primarily on playing defense for the Administration’s disastrous tariffs agenda—not on the Department’s essential programs.

If confirmed as the Deputy Secretary, it would be our expectation that you would come in and help right this ship swiftly.

Question 1. Yes or no: If confirmed, will you commit to spend the majority of your time at the Commerce Department working on the programs and policies that fall squarely in its remit?

Answer. I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick in support of his and the Administration’s tireless efforts to create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity for all Americans.

Question 2. Yes or no: Will you honor the commitments you make to Congress?

Answer. Yes.

Dismantling the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

Under Secretary Lutnick’s leadership, the MBDA—a 56-year-old agency that Congress permanently authorized in 2021 with bipartisan legislation—has been dismantled. During his confirmation hearing, Secretary Lutnick told our Committee that he did not support dismantling the MBDA. But, within months of taking office, Secretary Lutnick’s Department has gutted the MBDA. And now, the Trump Administration’s FY 2026 budget proposal acknowledges that the Department has “fully eliminated” the agency unilaterally.

I, along with multiple colleagues on the Committee, have sent two letters to Secretary Lutnick seeking information about his dismantling of the MBDA. In response, the Department sent a woefully inadequate letter that failed to address any of our concerns. On April 30, we sent another letter to the Department, this time to the acting Undersecretary for MBDA, demanding answers and accountability.

Question 1. Yes or No: Do you agree that funds Congress appropriated for MBDA’s statutory mission must be used for that purpose? If not, explain.

Answer. If granted the privilege of confirmation, I will promptly look into this matter.

Question 2. Yes or No: If confirmed, will you commit to tracing the money Congress appropriated to the MBDA and reporting back to this Committee on the status of those funds within 30 days? If not, explain.

Answer. If confirmed, I will look into this matter.

Question 3. If confirmed, will you examine the precise role held at the Commerce Department by Nate Cavanaugh, who is reportedly a member of the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), and promptly provide the Committee a complete description of any such role, including an explanation for why Mr. Cavanaugh signed grant termination notices on behalf of the MBDA?

Answer. If confirmed, I will look into this matter.

Question 4. If confirmed, will you commit to promptly providing this Committee the appropriate paperwork reflecting Labor Department Deputy Secretary Keith Sonderling’s appointment as the acting Undersecretary for MBDA?

Answer. If confirmed, I will look into this matter.

Question 5. Yes or No: You told my staff you respect congressional authorizations, appropriations, and oversight. Do you support the Trump Administration’s full elimination of an agency that Congress statutorily authorized and appropriated funds to operate?

Answer. If confirmed, I will review and execute on this program as required by law.

Question 6. Yes or No: If confirmed, will you commit to fully responding to my letters and requests on this topic? If no, explain.

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I will be responsive to the Committee.

Tariffs

Senator Grassley and I recently introduced the Trade Review Act of 2025, a bill that would reassert Congress’s constitutional control over tariffs. As we’ve seen, President Trump has vastly exceeded his legal tariff authority and ushered in economic chaos. This bill would require Congressional approval for tariffs and help dial back Trump’s unilateral trade war.

Meanwhile, the Trump Administration’s start-and-stop approach to tariffs is giving American families and business economic whiplash as we seem to be stumbling into a trade war with no clear end game.

Question 1. Do you agree that Congress has constitutional authority over trade policy, including tariffs?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress, including on potential legislation, on efforts to help combat decades of unfair trade practices that have harmed American workers, manufacturers, and critical supply chains.

Question 2. If confirmed, do you expect to play a significant role in formulating the Administration's tariffs policies?

Answer. If confirmed, I would work to support Secretary Lutnick, Under Secretary Kessler, and Ambassador Greer in formulating the Administration's tariff policies.

Question 3. Are you aware of whether the Administration intends to use tariffs primarily as a revenue generating tool or for leverage as a negotiating tool? If yes, please detail your basis for this understanding.

Answer. The Administration has made clear that tariffs imposed by President Trump serve multiple strategic purposes, including protecting our national and economic security, combatting large and persistent trade deficits that have harmed American workers, businesses and communities, and supporting negotiations for more fair and reciprocal trade agreements.

Question 4. How do you plan to assess the impact of current and proposed tariffs on working-and middle-class Americans, especially with respect to essential goods?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that Americans are able to continue to access all of the essential goods they rely on a daily basis and ensure that critical supply chains are not disrupted by an overreliance on foreign manufacturers not subject to American standards of production.

Question 5. Even Secretary Lutnick has acknowledged that tariffs will cause prices to increase for consumers. Given that, do you think retailers should be required to disclose the portion of their list prices reflecting the additional cost from tariffs?

Answer. No.

Secretary Lutnick's Statements regarding Elon Musk and Tesla

Mr. Dabbar, serious concerns have been raised regarding Secretary Lutnick's compliance with Federal ethics laws. On March 19, 2025, Secretary Lutnick went on national television and urged Americans to "buy Tesla" stock and said anyone who doesn't buy a Tesla robot "is going to be silly."

As I'm sure you know from your prior Federal service, Federal ethics rules generally prohibit Federal officials from using their public office to endorse any product or service.

Question 1. Yes or no: If confirmed, will you pledge not to publicly call for Americans to buy stock in any of Elon Musk's companies? If not, why not?

Answer. If confirmed, I will abide by all Federal ethics laws and regulations.

Question 2. Yes or no: Will you commit to fully complying with all Federal ethics rules?

Answer. Yes.

Dismantling the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

The Trump Administration is pursuing an FY 2026 budget proposal that would reduce NOAA's budget by at least 25 percent, eliminate Congressionally mandated programs, and transfer part of the National Marine Fisheries Service to the Interior Department.

During his confirmation hearing, Secretary Lutnick told me that he has, "no interest in separating" NOAA and that breaking up NOAA, "is not on my agenda." Yet, that is exactly what the Administration is trying to do.

Question 1. Do you support any function, mission, or congressionally authorized or appropriated work within NOAA, or executed by NOAA, being moved out of the NOAA or the Department of Commerce? If so, please describe.

Answer. NOAA's core mission is to protect life and property and in pursuit of that, NOAA plays a vital and unique role in advancing science, stewardship, and services that benefit the American people. That is what NOAA is currently doing and what it will continue to do during the Trump Administration.

Question 2. Have you discussed any plan to do so with Secretary Lutnick? If yes, specify the date(s) of these conversations and describe the contents of any such conversation.

Answer. No.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) at the Department of the Interior

Moving the protected resources, including endangered and threatened fisheries, to the Department of the Interior would separate scientists from the fishery managers for species like salmon. We have the best managed fisheries in the world because of science. It would also create substantial additional layers of red tape because the Secretary of Commerce is required to execute many functions, including regulatory functions, under law.

Question 1. Do you support moving the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources, or any of their activities and functions out of NOAA? If yes, explain why.

Answer. Every decision made throughout the next four years will be made to best serve the American people and will only be acted upon if and when it is appropriate. Ensuring that regulatory responsibilities are fulfilled without unnecessary duplication or delay remains an important guiding principle of this Administration.

Eliminating the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

You told me that you are proud of your leadership on research and development (R&D) at the Department of Energy (DOE). The Trump Administration's FY 2026 budget proposal terminates \$1.311 billion in climate research, data, and grant programs which would functionally eliminate NOAA's R&D program, known as the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). This R&D includes enhancing predictive models for emergency management and improving forecasts and early warnings for natural disasters. Recent OAR efforts have improved NOAA's hurricane track forecasting by 8 percent in a single year, helping to save lives as well as prevent unnecessary evacuations and disruptions to the American economy.

Question 1. Yes or No: Do you support eliminating OAR? If yes, explain why.

Answer. Ensuring that core scientific functions, particularly those that support public safety, economic resilience, and operational readiness remain effective is a responsibility shared across NOAA leadership and the broader department.

Question 2. Do you support the work of NOAA's Cooperative Institutes?

Answer. As with all programs, continued alignment with national priorities, scientific standards, and available resources remains essential. Engagement with external research institutions, including Cooperative Institutes, has historically contributed to NOAA's ability to deliver accurate forecasts, support resource management, and respond to evolving changes.

Question 3. Do you support the work of the NOAA Research Laboratories?

Answer. NOAA's Research Laboratories often serve as the bridge between fundamental research and operational capability, helping to ensure that scientific achievements are translated into real world benefits. They should continue to produce results that align with NOAA's mission.

NOAA Workforce

On February 19, 2025, I sent a letter to Secretary Lutnick urging him to protect NOAA's critical workforce from the Trump Administration's reduction-in-force initiatives and hiring freeze, which would jeopardize the safety of the American public. Despite this warning, on February 27, 2025, the Department fired approximately 650 probationary employees from NOAA.

In addition to probationary employees, roughly 900 employees took the deferred resignation offer in the so-called "Fork in the Road" e-mail, while another ~1,000 employees are planning to leave through voluntary early retirement and separation. These roughly 2,500 employees do not include cuts from the additional RIF initiative that the Administration is planning to implement in the coming weeks or the potential reclassification of thousands of NOAA employees as "Schedule F/Schedule/Policy Career" which would make them easier to terminate.

These staffing shortages are already impacting NOAA's core functions, including reduced and suspended weather balloon launches at many Weather Forecast Offices, reduced forecasts, and at least 10 Weather Forecast Offices with insufficient staff to remain open 24 hours a day. NOAA fisheries managers are not attending fishery management meetings and may miss stock assessment cruises. And with the hiring freeze, there are not enough credentialed mariners to sail up to one third of NOAA's research fleet.

Underscoring this point, today, May 2nd, every living former Director of the National Weather Service came together in an open letter to the American people to sound the alarm about these staffing shortages and the direct threat to public safety. The Directors "stand united against the loss of staff and resources at NWS and are deeply concerned about NOAA as a whole. . . [Their] worst nightmare is that

weather forecast offices will be so understaffed that there will be needless loss of life."

Question 1. What will you do to protect NOAA's workforce and ensure staff capacity to execute NOAA's core missions?

Answer. Workforce management decisions, including hiring policies and staffing levels, are shaped by a combination of statutory requirements, Executive Branch directives, and agency-specific mission needs. If confirmed, I will work with NOAA to evaluate impacts from any staffing shortages in the context of operational continuity, public safety, and science.

Question 2. What will you do to ensure NOAA has the staff capacity for permitting, consultation, and other review activities critical for construction of roads, bridges, ports, and other priorities of the Administration?

Answer. NOAA's review and consultation responsibilities under statutes, such as the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Act play an important role in supporting the advancement of infrastructure and development projects while ensuring environmental compliance. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that NOAA is able to meet these obligations.

Question 3. What will you do to ensure the National Weather Service has sufficient staff for all Weather Forecast Offices and to provide Americans with accurate and timely weather warnings?

Answer. I will work to ensure the National Weather Service remains able to deliver timely, accurate forecasts. NOAA's top priority is maintaining essential services and protecting the American public.

Question 4. Will you ensure NOAA is adequately staffed so that Tribes are able to access meaningful government-to-government consultation and technical assistance on NOAA programs, including grants?

Answer. I am fully committed to supporting meaningful government-to-government consultation and ensuring Tribes have access to the technical assistance they need across NOAA programs.

Question 5. Executive Order 14170 implements a Federal hiring freeze until July 15, 2025, but it allows for exclusions for positions related to public safety. Will you pursue an exemption to the hiring freeze under for any NOAA positions related to public safety? If so, which positions?

Answer. If confirmed, ensuring continuity of public safety activities at NOAA will be one of my priorities.

NOAA Contracts

I understand that all NOAA contracts and grants greater than \$100k require Secretary Lutnick's personal approval. There are hundreds of contracts and grants that meet that threshold.

As you can imagine, this has resulted in a significant bottleneck, causing critical contracts to terminate, lapse, or be signed mere hours before they expire. For example, contracts for both the operations of weather satellites and the software that forecasters use to access weather data were hours away from expiring, which would have jeopardized NOAA's ability to issue extreme weather warnings. Additionally, the contract for the R/V Oscar Dyson's midlife repair is at risk of expiring, and the Dyson is critical for the Alaskan Pollock industry's stock assessments that are used to establish catch limits.

If confirmed, you will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Department. I understand you told my staff that you would end this new burdensome approval requirement if given the chance.

Question 1. Will you end this practice?

Answer. The Administration is committed to cost efficiency and ending wasteful government spending. Having worked extensively on contracts and grants in previous government roles, I understand firsthand how essential it is to keep these processes moving efficiently to support mission-critical operations, stay on budget, and deliver results for the American people.

Question 2. What will you do to ensure DOC contracts are reviewed in a timely and efficient manner without inadvertent lapses?

Answer. If confirmed, I will support Secretary Lutnick in his efforts to ensure tax-payers receive the benefit of the bargain. I will look into existing processes and collaborate with the relevant stakeholders within the Department.

Fisheries

According to the latest statistics from 2022, U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries generated \$321 billion in sales, 2.3 million jobs, and \$149.8 billion in value-added to the U.S. economy. Commercial fisheries landings alone were valued at \$5.9

billion, and recreational fishermen took 201 million fishing trips that year. Communities across the country rely on these fisheries and the benefits they provide. They also rely on NOAA Fisheries providing world class science and management to support this fishing activity.

Question 1. Will you commit to investing effort and resources into improving fishery data systems, navigating climate change, and other pressures on fisheries?

Answer. The figures cited reflect the significant economic value of NOAA's fisheries and any future decisions regarding investments, priorities, or organizational efforts will be guided by NOAA's core mission. If confirmed, I will work with my colleagues in the Department to ensure the American fishing industry continues to strengthen and grow.

Question 2. Will you commit to ensuring stock assessment surveys are completed?

Answer. Stock assessment surveys are foundational to effective fisheries management, and there is broad agreement on their value to the economic and ecological health of U.S. fisheries. Maintaining and improving these assessments remains a priority across the scientific and stakeholder communities.

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF)

PCSRF provides critical funding to facilitate the recovery of Pacific salmon and steelhead and the commercial, recreational, and tribal fisheries that rely on them. The leaked FY 2026 Passback would eliminate funding for this program, which has restored salmon access to over 12,000 miles of streams and leveraged \$2.2 billion in non-PCSRF contributions.

Question 1. Do you commit to protecting the PCSRF program and to distributing FY 2025 PCSRF funds?

Answer. The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund has been an important source of support for salmon recovery efforts and the communities that rely on these fisheries. I understand the strong interest in the program and the significant outcomes it has helped achieve.

CHIPS Research and Development

In addition to the CHIPS Incentives Program, CHIPS and Science also created several programs at NIST—funded by an \$11 billion appropriation—to ensure U.S. leadership in semiconductor research and development, and to develop the workforce required to domestically manufacture legacy, advanced, and next-generation semiconductors for years to come.

Given that R&D and workforce development are vital to our long term competitiveness in lab to market microelectronics innovation, will you commit to maintaining the staff and budget at NIST that is needed to ensure the success of CHIPS R&D programs? If not, why not?

Answer. The Department plays a key role in advancing the Nation's technological competitiveness in everything from semiconductors to AI, to increasing the availability of spectrum. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that America leads in these key areas.

Economic Development Administration (EDA)/Tech Hubs

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is charged with investing in local communities to encourage and enable growth and innovation in the private sector, with a particular focus on distressed or underserved areas. One of the investments currently managed by EDA is the Tech Hubs program, established by the CHIPS and Science Act, which represents a historic opportunity to strengthen American technological leadership and create thousands of high-paying jobs across the country. The Fiscal Year 2026 President's Budget Request proposes eliminating EDA; however, it does not comment on the Tech Hubs program.

Question 1. Do you agree with eliminating EDA?

Answer. I support President Donald J. Trump and look forward to implementing his agenda.

Question 2. If so, how will you and the Administration meet the Congressional intent of the Chips and Science Act to administer a Tech Hubs program that is vital to economic and national security and has already awarded grants to 18 of 31 designated regional tech hubs?

Answer. The Department of Commerce has a strong track record of supporting innovation. If confirmed, I will examine each program to ensure that it is providing taxpayers the benefit of the bargain.

Question 3. I was able to secure an additional \$220 million in immediate funding for this program through the NDAA, with the potential for \$280 million more to come from a future spectrum auction. Mr. Dabbar, will you commit to ensuring that

this \$280 million is preserved specifically for the Tech Hubs program as Congress intended? If not, why not?

Answer. The Department of Commerce has a strong track record of supporting innovation. If confirmed, I will examine each program to ensure that it is providing taxpayers the benefit of the bargain.

Quantum

The global race for leadership in critical and emerging technologies—especially in quantum computing—is intensifying. Our competitors are pouring in billions of dollars to get there first. This year, Microsoft announced the development of a new quantum processor, which could be the transistor of the quantum age.

When you were the DOE Undersecretary for Science, you led the implementation of the National Quantum Initiative Act and helped create 5 DOE quantum centers. Last December, I, along with Senators Young, Durbin, and Daines, introduced the National Quantum Initiative Reauthorization Act. I plan on reintroducing this bill again this Congress.

Question 1. Mr. Dabbar, do you support the National Quantum Initiative Reauthorization Act?

Answer. President Trump recently wrote in support of his National Quantum Initiative to the Director of OSTP. I support the continued emphasis on promoting and funding quantum research and technologies, including the practical application of quantum technologies, as embraced in this legislation. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that the Department of Commerce and NIST continue to prioritize quantum research and development.

Question 2. If confirmed, will you commit to working with me and my staff to advance it?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with Congress to prioritize quantum research and technology implementation.

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and AI

The Commerce Department plays a prominent role in advancing critical and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum, advanced manufacturing, and biotechnology through investing in fundamental R&D at agencies like NIST, NTIA, and NOAA. Last year, I introduced the Future of AI Innovation Act with Senator Young and some of my other colleagues that would ensure that the U.S. leads on AI reliability and transparency, as well as mitigating potential national security risks from AI, by authorizing the AI Safety Institute at NIST.

Question 1. Will you support continued focus by NIST on promotion of AI standards and developing testing for AI reliability and safety?

Answer. Secretary Lutnick has stated that NIST should ensure American leadership on AI standards. He further stated that NIST will continue its testing of AI products. If confirmed, I look forward to supporting these activities.

Question 2. Will you work with me, Senator Young, and Chair Cruz as we consider legislation to authorize the work that needs to continue to be done in this area?

Answer. If confirmed, yes, I commit to working with Congress to ensure U.S. leadership in this area.

Funding Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Centers

The MEP program at NIST connects small and medium-sized manufacturers with resources to improve their manufacturing processes, adopt the latest cybersecurity practices, and strengthen their supply chains.

Each state and Puerto Rico have their own MEP Center, and they are the gold standard of public-private partnerships.

I was alarmed to see NIST announce on April 1 they were withholding funds for ten of the 51 centers, including in Delaware, Hawaii, Kansas, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming. I led a letter with Senator Baldwin and 13 other Senators, demanding a full explanation from Secretary Lutnick and asking him to reconsider.

Fortunately, after we sent our letter, we were notified that NIST decided to renew funding for those 10 centers through the end of the Fiscal Year. However, there are still upcoming funding renewal deadlines for MEP Centers coming up on July 1, October 1, January 1, 2026, and March 12, 2026, and the Department's intentions remain unclear.

Question 1. Do you commit to supporting and fully funding the MEP program and its centers, which are both statutorily authorized as well as appropriated by Congress? If no, why not?

Answer. As stated during the hearing, if confirmed, I will follow the law as authorized and appropriated by Congress. The Secretary and this administration are strongly committed to supporting U.S. manufacturing, reducing reliance on foreign manufacturing, and creating American jobs, all of which are essential to ensuring the long-term strength of American economic and national security.

American Aerospace Manufacturing Competitiveness

The United States aerospace and defense sector has the largest positive trade balance among all U.S. manufacturing sectors, valued at over \$110 billion, and supports over 2.2 million good paying jobs. China's aircraft manufacturer, COMAC, is a growing threat to United States' market share of commercial aircraft in the global aerospace sector. COMAC's narrowbody C919 aircraft competes with the 737 series aircraft, produced by Boeing, our leading domestic aircraft manufacturer. Boeing has experienced significant challenges in recent years including concerning aircraft production safety and quality issues that must be corrected before production of the 737 MAX can be allowed to increase beyond the cap of 38 per month instituted by former FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker. This will take time and so will Boeing's overall recovery efforts as a company to improve many of their product lines.

Boeing has estimated that Chinese airlines will need 8,830 new total commercial planes by 2043. However, if the current Administration were to issue broad retaliatory tariffs against China without considering the impact that they could have against Boeing's ability to sell aircraft in the Asian-Pacific market, Boeing and the greater domestic aerospace supply chain would be at risk of losing its competitive standing in the global aerospace sector. Such tariffs could have harmful impacts on U.S.-based aerospace supply chain companies and jobs.

Question 1. Do you commit to ensuring that the U.S. aerospace manufacturing sector and supply chain are not subject to new costs and burdens associated with tariffs, restrictions, or economic sanctions?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that our trade policies are implemented in a manner that supports fair competition, transparency, and the economic and national security of the United States, including for our aerospace manufacturing sector.

What actions will you take to protect our domestic aerospace supply chain and its highly-skilled American workers from new disruptions—such as issues that would jeopardize U.S.-based jobs and increase costs for U.S.-based companies?

Answer. If confirmed, I would be happy to work with Congress to help protect American jobs.

Office of Space Commerce

The Office of Space Commerce (OSC), currently within NOAA, serves as the principal unit in the Executive Branch for representing commercial space interests in policy deliberations, and also regulates the satellite-based commercial remote sensing industry. As a result of Presidential Policy established in the first Trump Administration, the Office of Space Commerce (OSC), is also developing the Traffic Coordination System for Space (TraCSS) to provide basic space situational awareness (SSA) data, space traffic coordination (STC), and services to civil and private space operators and to support spaceflight safety, space sustainability, and international coordination.

OSC still requires additional authorities to carry out its mission to ensure safety in orbit, and the SAFE Orbit Act, sponsored by Senators Cornyn, Peters, Wicker, Blackburn, Hickenlooper, Kelly, Schmitt, and Lujan, was approved by the Committee on March 12, 2025, with an amendment from Ranking Member Cantwell. The bill provides SSA and STC authorities to OSC and establishes a five-year transition period to move the office from within NOAA to a bureau reporting directly to the Secretary.

However, it is not clear if the Administration is following through with the resources needed to enable OSC to fulfill either its longstanding or expanded responsibilities. Although not addressed in the President's FY26 Discretionary Funding Request released on May 2nd, the earlier FY26 OMB passback for NOAA proposed providing the office with only \$10 million—a reduction of \$55 million from the enacted FY24 funding level. The proposed budget would also eliminate TraCSS system development, in favor of transferring existing TraCSS capability to a non-government entity.

Question 1. Given that TraCSS development already involves significant partnership with industry and when completed, will provide government validation of commercially-provided SSA data, do you believe it is appropriate to transfer responsibility for SSA, which underpins the safety of the entire space economy, to a non-government entity?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to support the safety, sustainability, and continued growth of the commercial space sector.

Question 2. Will you commit to maintaining the OSC staff and budget at a level that is sufficient to carry out the offices current commercial advocacy and commercial industry oversight responsibilities, while also enabling the completion of TraCSS and support to SSA and STC standard setting?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to support the safety, sustainability, and continued growth of the commercial space sector.

Question 3. Do you believe that elevating the Office of Space Commerce within DOC would allow the office to be more effective at supporting the global competitiveness of the U.S. commercial space industry?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to support the safety, sustainability, and continued growth of the commercial space sector.

Spectrum

During the first Trump Administration, there were failures to coordinate on Federal and commercial spectrum policy. I believe we must create a coordinated approach to domestic spectrum policy, where agencies such as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Defense (DoD), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) work together with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and Federal Communications Commission (FCC)—cooperatively—on spectrum. If confirmed, Mr. Dabbar, as Deputy Secretary of Commerce, you will play a vital role in that coordination process.

Question 1. Yes or no: Do you agree that we cannot put our national security and public safety at risk in order to free up spectrum?

Answer. Yes.

Question 2. Yes or no: Do you agree that NTIA, DoD, and other Federal agencies must complete the ongoing studies of the lower 3 Gigahertz and 7 and 8 Gigahertz bands before a decision is made to reallocate that spectrum?

Answer. Yes.

Question 3. Yes or no: Do you agree that spectrum cannot be made available for commercial use in a way that interferes with aviation safety?

Answer. Yes.

Question 4. Yes or no: Do you agree that spectrum cannot be made available for commercial use in a way that interferes with NOAA's ability to predict and forecast weather?

Answer. Yes.

Question 5. Yes or no: Do you agree that spectrum cannot be made available for commercial use in a way that interferes with the functionality of the GPS system?

Answer. Yes.

Question 6. Yes or no: Do you agree that spectrum cannot be made available for commercial use in a way that interferes with the functionality of airplane altimeters?

Answer. Yes.

Question 7. Yes or no: Do you agree that spectrum cannot be made available for commercial use in a way that interferes with the functionality of military satellite communications and sensing systems?

Answer. If confirmed, I would work with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA to protect national security and public safety in any spectrum decisions.

Infrastructure and BEAD Allocations

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 appropriated \$42 billion for the BEAD program, \$1.2 billion of which was allocated to the State of Washington to connect households to broadband. The commitment that Congress made to reach the goal of connecting unserved and underserved households is well underway, with plans in all 56 states and territories approved by NTIA, in compliance with the law.

Question 1. Do you agree that states need the flexibility to implement the BEAD program, and ensure that it works for the people in each state and territory—and that what works in Rhode Island may not work in Texas?

Answer. Every state is different and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. States should have flexibility to tailor solutions to their unique needs, consistent with the law.

Question 2. Yes or no: Will you commit to providing states with the flexibility to use their BEAD funds to select the providers and technologies that work best for

their unique circumstances, rather than imposing new burdensome requirements such as forcing states to redo their subgrantee selection process or establishing a national per location cap?

Answer. Connecting every American to broadband is my top priority. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA to expedite the BEAD program and get funding to the states, consistent with the law.

Question 3. Yes or no: If confirmed, will you commit to releasing all allocated funds to the states that have already had their final proposals approved? If not, why not?

Answer. Connecting every American to broadband is my top priority. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA to expedite the BEAD program and get funding to the states, consistent with the law.

Question 4. Yes or no: Will you commit to preserve the BEAD allocations that NTIA made to states in 2023?

Answer. Connecting every American to broadband is my top priority. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA to expedite the BEAD program and get funding to the states, consistent with the law.

Tribal Connectivity

NTIA oversees the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, which Congress appropriated \$3 billion to support Tribal governments for deployment projects, tele-health, and online education opportunities. Roughly \$1 billion in funding for this program is currently frozen.

Question 1. Yes or no, will you commit to completing the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program as it currently exists?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA to execute on the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, consistent with the law.

Middle Mile Infrastructure Program

To date, NTIA has awarded nearly \$980 million across 40 states and territories through the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program. This Program funds projects to deploy future-proof fiber over nearly 12,500 miles, connecting over 7,000 anchor institutions.

Question 1. Will you commit to completing the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program as it currently exists?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA to execute on the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program, consistent with the law.

Question 2. Will you commit to working expeditiously to ensure that funded projects are able to proceed to deploy fiber across the country?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA to execute on the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program, consistent with the law.

Digital Equity Grants

Congress intended to not only establish a once-in-a-generation investment in broadband infrastructure, but also to ensure individuals and communities have the skills necessary to take advantage of the digital opportunities created by high-speed Internet connectivity. One example is how the State of Washington is developing a cybersecurity literacy program to ensure Washingtonians have the necessary skills to protect themselves from cyber criminals.

Question 1. Will you commit to fully and swiftly implementing the Digital Equity Act and its focus on all of the core targets identified in the statute, including rural Americans, seniors, and veterans?

Answer. If confirmed, I will commit to fully and swiftly reviewing all NTIA programs, including the Digital Equity Act, and following the law.

Question 2. Can you commit not to leave any of the statutory “covered populations” outlined in the Digital Equity Act behind and implement the Act fully, as intended by Congress?

Answer. If confirmed, I will commit to fully and swiftly reviewing all NTIA programs, including the Digital Equity Act, and following the law.

Innovation Fund

Authorized under the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act and funded through the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, the Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund is a 10-year, \$1.5 billion grant program will help drive wireless innovation, foster competition, and strengthen supply chain resilience. Around \$814 mil-

lion remains unobligated. President Trump has called to roll back the CHIPS and Science Act, which funded this program.

Question 1. Do you support the current funding opportunities announced and underway?

Answer. I support the program and its implementation, consistent with the President's executive order 14080 detailing the focus on delivering the benefit of the bargain for taxpayers.

Question 2. Will you commit to implementing these programs and to complete open funding rounds?

Answer. I support the program and its implementation, consistent with the President's executive order 14080 detailing the focus on delivering the benefit of the bargain for taxpayers.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. AMY KLOBUCHAR TO
PAUL DABBAR

Travel and Tourism

Travel and tourism is vital to the U.S. economy, generating billions in revenue and supporting millions of jobs. That's why I helped create Brand USA to promote the U.S. as a premier destination. But this administration is jeopardizing this progress. Bookings from Canada are down 70 percent from this time last year, causing our economy to lose billions of dollars.

Question 1. If confirmed, how will you work to restore travel and tourism?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to strengthen international visitation by promoting the U.S. as a premier destination.

Question 2. If confirmed, how will you work to strengthen programs like Brand USA to ensure the U.S. remains competitive in attracting international visitors—especially considering major upcoming events like the World Cup, 250th Anniversary celebrations, and the 2028 Olympics?

Answer. Major global events are an opportunity to showcase American excellence and attract international visitors. President Trump recently established a White House Task Force on the FIFA World Cup to coordinate Federal efforts around the 2025 Club World Cup and 2026 World Cup and maximize the economic benefits of sports tourism. If confirmed, I will work to ensure these and other events help drive job creation, investment, and global interest in visiting the United States.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. BRIAN SCHATZ TO
PAUL DABBAR

Marine National Monument

On April 17, the President issued a proclamation that opened the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument to commercial fishing after asserting that the “prohibition on commercial fishing is not, at this time, necessary for the proper care and management of the PRIMNM or the objects of historic or scientific interest therein.”

Question 1. Please explain the scientific basis for the President's conclusion, including citations for the peer-reviewed literature that supports this Action.

Answer. If confirmed, I will consult with the NOAA team to understand this issue.

Question 2. Since the President concluded that the ban on commercial fishing was not needed “at this time,” please explain the circumstances when such a ban would be necessary, and describe how the Pacific ocean will be monitored to determine when such circumstances arise.

Answer. If confirmed, I will consult with the NOAA team to understand this issue.

Tariffs

Secretary Lutnick stated that President Trump's tariffs are “playing for the strength of America” despite costing American families over an estimated \$5,000 a year, risking a stagflationary recession, and undermining our international competitiveness in scientific and technological advancement.

Question 3. If confirmed, will you commit to pursuing a tariff regime that lowers costs for American families?

Answer. If confirmed, I will do everything in my power to ensure that trade measures are implemented in a manner that supports fair competition, transparency and our national interest.

Question 4. If confirmed, will you commit to pursuing a tariff regime that strengthens supply chains critical to U.S. science and technology sectors?

Answer. Given my background and as I stated during my hearing, I am committed to ensuring that science and technology efforts, including AI, semiconductors, quantum, intellectual property, the Blue Economy, and technology security are at the forefront of issues we focus on at the Commerce Department. Building a stronger, more resilient economy that is less dependent on unfair or unstable foreign supply chains is a critical part of that.

Data Transparency

The Commerce Department is charged with maintaining data pertaining to the U.S. economy, weather, and the Census. The availability of this data is critical to upholding government transparency and the dissemination of critical public information. Despite this, the Trump administration has deleted records of important taxpayer-supported research with no warning.

Question 5. If confirmed, will you ensure that the Commerce Department's data remains accurate, up-to-date, and that the Commerce Department will not permanently delete research supported by taxpayers?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to following all applicable Federal laws and regulations pertaining to the publication and retention of Commerce data and research.

Question 6. Will you ensure the Bureau prepares to implement a Census in 2030 that counts every person?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that the Census is implemented consistent with the law.

Support for CHIPS Act

You described the CHIPS and Science Act as a “historic down payment” for American leadership in semiconductor technology. The Trump administration has criticized and worked to undermine this bipartisan law by terminating vital staff from the office overseeing the program.

Question 7. If confirmed, please describe your vision for carrying out the CHIPS and Science Act as Congress intended.

Answer. I recognize that semiconductors are essential to our national security and economic and technological competitiveness. I look forward to continued implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act as written and as guided by the President and Secretary Lutnick.

Question 8. Will you commit to ensuring that vital investments in scientific research, including in areas such as AI and quantum computing, continue for educational institutions?

Answer. I look forward to continued investments in areas such as AI and quantum and will work with educational institutions that are qualified and eligible to participate.

Question 9. Will you commit to ensuring that vital investments in workforce development continue to prepare the next generation of scientists, engineers and technologists?

Answer. I look forward to supporting effective, efficient and proven workforce development activities to prepare the next generation of scientists, engineers and technologists.

Artificial Intelligence

President Trump has rolled back the Biden Administration’s AI Executive Order in favor of his AI Action Plan, but there are commonsense, bipartisan provisions that are worth protecting.

Question 10. Do you plan to support the continuation of the U.S. AI Safety Institute, which has broad support across the aisle and within industry, to ensure U.S. leadership on AI standards development?

Answer. If confirmed, I will support continued testing of AI models, the sharing of results by NIST (where the AI Safety Institute resides) and the development of AI standards.

Question 11. Will you commit to ensuring that the Department of Commerce maintains the technical expertise and staffing capacity necessary to maintain U.S. leadership on AI?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that the U.S. continues to lead on AI.

Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS)

The BIS advances U.S. national security, foreign policy, and economic objectives by ensuring effective export controls for advanced semiconductors. Competition with China and technological developments have complicated BIS's work and added new responsibilities. As a result, they must now oversee more commerce than even a decade ago, and face more sophisticated adversaries. Unfortunately, their resources have been essentially flat with inflation since 2010.

Question 12. Do you commit to ensuring that BIS has the resources necessary to complete its job, including technical expertise and modernized infrastructure, such as IT systems?

Answer. I am committed to ensuring that the Department, including the Bureau of Industry and Security, completes its mission.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH TO PAUL DABBAR

Manufacturing in the U.S.

Question 1. The Department of Commerce's Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program is a crucial program to help strengthen the U.S. industrial base by providing a number of services to small and medium-sized manufacturers. There is one center in each state and in Illinois, the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) leads a variety of initiatives to grow manufacturing, including supporting the development of quantum technologies in our state. IMEC has created and retained more than 7,000 jobs and assisted nearly 3,000 companies. Despite Secretary Lutnick's promises, the DOC announced that it had decided to cancel funding for MEP centers in a number of states. After that announcement, I joined 14 other Senators to express our concerns and call for a reversal of that decision. One week after our letter, the DOC confirmed that it would reverse its previous decision.

A. Mr. Dabbar, if confirmed, will you stop efforts to defund the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which help American manufacturers?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to working to support President Trump's and Secretary Lutnick's efforts to grow domestic manufacturing.

B. Mr. Dabbar, will you commit to fighting against cuts to programs in addition to the MEP that support manufacturing in the United States?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to working to support President Trump's and Secretary Lutnick's efforts to grow domestic manufacturing.

Quantum

Question 2. Mr. Dabbar, you spent a lot of time working on quantum technology policy, including a number of engagements with the Chicago Quantum Exchange and our quantum community throughout Illinois.

A. Mr. Dabbar, as the White House continues to slash funding for research, will you commit to use your position to protect investments in quantum?

Answer. I am in support of quantum efforts nationally, as has been delineated by the President in his recent public letter to the OSTP Director, and public comments on quantum by Secretary Lutnick.

B. Do you agree that the Federal government should invest in places like the Chicago Quantum Exchange and the new Illinois Quantum Microelectronics Park, in order to maintain American leadership on quantum?

Answer. I am in support of those and other quantum efforts nationally, as has been delineated by the President in his recent public letter to the OSTP Director, and public comments on quantum by Secretary Lutnick.

Section 232 Tariffs

Question 3. If you are confirmed, you play a significant role in tariff and trade policy. Considering your lack of background in trade and tariffs, I want to understand how you are planning to engage with career experts at the Department of Commerce on these topics.

A. Mr. Dabbar, who have you already reached out to at the Department to discuss trade and tariffs and get up to speed? Have you seen any indication that Secretary Lutnick is consulting with the experts at the Department of Commerce prior to making decisions on tariffs?

Answer. Secretary Lutnick is an expert on trade, and I know he discusses trade topics with a wide group of experts. I have had several meetings with Commerce Department officials to get up to speed on public information on a range of trade issues that will come before me.

B. Mr. Dabbar, are you aware of a 2019 Commerce Department Inspector General report that found that Section 232 tariff policy was conducted with “a lack of transparency” and “the appearance of improper influence in decision making?”

Answer. I am not familiar with that report.

C. How would you ensure that is not repeated during the second Trump Administration?

Answer. I am committed to working collaboratively and transparently with Administration officials and Congress to ensure that any exclusions would be administered in a manner that is consistent with the strategic goals of the tariffs as well as the legal authority under which they are imposed.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN TO
PAUL DABBAR

Question 1. Sec. Lutnick is calling on states to use the lowest cost option when building out broadband under the BEAD Program. Although satellite is cheaper and quicker to deploy in the short-term, it will be more expensive in the long-term. Fiber is considered the gold standard in Internet connection. Yes or no, do you support deprioritizing fiber in favor of fixed wireless or LEO satellites?

Answer. I support an all-of-the-above solution, including fiber as well as alternative technologies where appropriate. If confirmed, I will work with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA to deliver the best broadband service possible to all Americans, consistent with NTIA’s statutory authority.

a. Are you aware of any small LEO operators that satisfy IIJA’s 100/20 mbps speeds and low latency conditions?

Answer. If confirmed, I will consult with NTIA on whether specific products, services, and technologies meet the statutory speed and low latency requirements.

Question 2. Earlier this month, Secretary Lutnick put out a statement saying that the Commerce Department is “revamping the BEAD program to take a tech-neutral approach that is rigorously driven by outcomes, so states can provide Internet access for the lowest cost.” Yes or no, do you support requiring states to overhaul and resubmit their BEAD plans?

Answer. Connecting every American to broadband expeditiously is a top priority. It is unacceptable that the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program has been bogged down by delays and administrative processes for years. If confirmed, I will work with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to the states, and expand broadband buildout, consistent with the law.

Question 3. The Digital Equity Act provides \$2.75 billion to establish three grant programs that promote activities consistent with the Act. They aim to ensure that all people and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital economy. According to recent reporting, the Trump Administration froze those funds last month. However, grant awardees were not notified of such a freeze. Yes or no, if confirmed, will you commit to release and distributing these funds?

Answer. I will commit to fully and swiftly reviewing all NTIA programs and following the law.

Question 4. Did Joe Biden lawfully win the 2020 presidential election?

Answer. Joe Biden was sworn in as President in January 2021.

Question 5. Did Donald Trump lawfully win the 2024 presidential election?

Answer. Donald Trump was sworn in as President in January 2025.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTION SUBMITTED BY HON. ANDY KIM TO
PAUL DABBAR

Section 232 Exclusion Process

Question. Over the last few months, the Trump Administration has announced numerous tariffs on steel, aluminum, and other materials to the United States. Will you commit to working with the U.S. Trade Representative to set up an exclusions process to these tariffs for imports that fit section 232 exemptions criteria?

Answer. The President is the leader of the Administration’s trade agenda and there is not currently an exclusions process, as the President is determined to strengthen domestic manufacturing and not allow our strategic competitors to infiltrate the United States market at the expense of American manufacturers. If confirmed, I would work with Secretary Lutnick, Under Secretary Kessler, and Ambas-

sador Greer on the strategic goals of tariffs and the broader interests of the United States.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER TO
PAUL DABBAR

Supply Chains

Mr. Dabbar, in recent years, we've seen firsthand how fragile our supply chains can be, in areas like medical PPE and semiconductor chip shortages.

That's why I proudly joined Senators Cantwell and Blackburn to introduce the bipartisan *Promoting Resilient Supply Chains Act*, which empowers the Department of Commerce to work with the private sector to prevent future disruptions in critical industries and emerging technologies.

Question 1. Mr. Dabbar, how would you strengthen supply chain resilience and better protect American industries and consumers from potential disruptions?

Answer. In order to strengthen supply chain resilience and protect American industries and consumers, if confirmed, I would work with the Secretary and others at the Department and across the Administration to tighten export controls on critical and emerging technologies, conduct Section 232 investigations to assess whether imports of certain goods threaten national security, and push for the reshoring and bolstering of domestic manufacturing capacity in key sectors.

Supporting American Leadership in AI for Energy Innovation

Mr. Dabbar, AI is already transforming the energy sector by helping improve grid resilience, optimize energy efficiency, and accelerate clean energy research.

However, China is investing heavily to lead the world in AI and energy technologies. Maintaining our edge is critical to U.S. economic and national security.

Question 1. Mr. Dabbar, how would you prioritize the use of AI in advancing U.S. energy innovation if confirmed?

Answer. If confirmed, I would prioritize utilizing AI to increase U.S. competitiveness by advancing energy innovation. While at the DOE, I had the opportunity to oversee a partnership using AI to increase discovery of energy technologies, and there are many other similar opportunities for innovation. If confirmed, I look forward to exploring opportunities in coordination with inter-agency partners.

Question 2. How can the Commerce Department help support partnerships between national labs, universities, and private industry to keep America competitive?

Answer. Robust collaboration between these entities is essential for American competitiveness. Commerce currently partners with national labs, universities, and private industry, and can play a role in strengthening and facilitating those partnerships. If confirmed, I will work to review existing programs and identify opportunities to strengthen those vital relationships.

Promoting Ethical AI Standards

Mr. Dabbar, AI technologies developed for energy applications must also be deployed responsibly, to ensure transparency, security, and public trust.

Question 1. If confirmed, how would you approach promoting responsible AI energy standards through Commerce Department initiatives?

Answer. As stated above, Secretary Lutnick has expressed his belief that NIST should ensure American leadership on AI standards. AI industrial consensus energy standards need to be developed in coordination with industry and other agencies, such as the Department of Energy, if they are to be understood, trusted and utilized. If confirmed, I look forward to supporting such work.

