

**BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

**Statement of David A. Sampson
Nominee for the Position of Deputy Secretary
United States Department of Commerce**

May 18, 2005

Mr. Chairman, Senator Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I am honored to appear before you as the President's nominee to become Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce. I am grateful to President Bush for the opportunity to serve. And I deeply appreciate Secretary Gutierrez's confidence and support. Let me also thank the members of this Committee.

Today, I would like to give you a better sense of what I hope to accomplish as deputy secretary of Commerce, if given that opportunity. Let me begin by stating my strong commitment to the core mission of the Department of Commerce. At the Department, we serve the American people by helping to create the right conditions for economic growth and expanded opportunity. We promote innovation. We foster entrepreneurship. We enhance competitiveness. And we encourage environmental stewardship.

The Deputy Secretary of the Department of Commerce effectively serves as the agency's chief operating officer, overseeing the Department's 38,000 employees and \$6.5 billion budget. The Deputy Secretary also acts as the Secretary's primary advisor and surrogate. The Department addresses a wide range of important challenges every day: From marine fisheries to international trade, the Census, and various other scientific, environmental, technological, and economic areas, the Department's work takes place on a global basis.

With the support of the Committee, and the hardworking men and women of the Department, I am confident that I can maintain the high standards set by my predecessors and support Secretary Gutierrez's commitment to excellence.

If confirmed by the Senate, I would bring valuable experience and knowledge to the office of Deputy Secretary. For the past four years, I have served as the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.

Our primary focus has been achieving results for people-in-need through leading-edge, market-based economic development strategies in partnership with distressed regions and communities. At the same time, we have also focused on embedding good management practices at EDA.

I am proud that EDA was one of the first federal programs to adopt a fully functioning Balanced Scorecard system. This system has helped EDA to execute our strategy to raise performance throughout the organization. And it has helped us to deliver stronger results for the American people.

The Balanced Scorecard played a large role in driving EDA's success when the President's Office of Management and Budget evaluated our performance with their Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). Overall, EDA scored in the top tiers of federal programs.

Also, as you know, the Congress reauthorized EDA in 2004. During the past several years, EDA's job creation efforts have been greatly strengthened by a pattern of increased private sector leverage of federal grant dollars. We understand that an economic development project does not begin to approach its potential until the private sector joins the enterprise through investment and involvement.

During my tenure at EDA, one of the President's early statements has been a guiding objective. He said "every American who is looking for work should be able to find a job". That mission has been my focus since the day I was confirmed as Assistant Secretary. The Committee can be confident that it will remain my primary goal as Deputy Secretary.

Several of the positions I held prior to joining the Department had a particular bearing on my preparation to serve effectively as Deputy Secretary.

Most recently, I served as President & Chief Executive Officer of the Arlington, Texas Chamber of Commerce. Concurrently, I served within then-Governor Bush's Administration by leading the Texas Council on Workforce and Economic Competitiveness as Chairman and serving as Vice Chair of the Texas Strategic Economic Development Planning Commission.

My experience in the public and private sectors has taught me that the Federal Government can play an important role in economic development and the creation of jobs by fostering the conditions that allow the private sector to thrive and increase employment.

While I am now familiar with the full Department's operations and programs, I know that the job of staying well-informed never ends. I welcome that challenge, and I will dedicate myself to meeting the high expectations for our Department from the President, the Secretary, and this Committee.

If confirmed, I will support the Secretary as he directs the Department's focus on economic growth and job creation. We will open foreign markets. We will insist that our trading partners comply with the full terms of our trade agreements. We will foster technological innovation. We will defend intellectual property rights. We will implement effective export controls. We will promote the wise stewardship of our natural resources. And we will oversee the collection of sound economic statistics. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this Committee on these and other matters.

In closing, I have been richly blessed with family, friends, and opportunity. I am deeply grateful, especially for my wife Karen and my twin sons, Matt and John.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for this opportunity to appear before you today, and for your consideration of my nomination. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have.