

**Prepared Statement of John J. Sullivan  
Nominee for Deputy Secretary  
United States Department of Commerce  
March 13, 2008**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman, Members of the Committee,

I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the next Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce. I am grateful and honored that the President has given me this opportunity to continue serving the American people, and I am deeply appreciative of the confidence and support shown to me by Secretary Gutierrez. I would also like to thank this Committee and its staff for the courtesies they have extended to me throughout this process.

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, namely, to serve the American people by helping to create the right conditions for economic growth and expanded opportunity. The Commerce Department addresses a wide range of important challenges each and every day. We encourage environmental stewardship. We promote innovation. We foster entrepreneurship. And we enhance competitiveness. Our work takes place on a global basis – from marine fisheries and the National Weather Service to the Census and numerous scientific, environmental, technological, and economic endeavors.

The Department's Deputy Secretary effectively serves as its chief operating officer, overseeing its 38,000 employees and \$7.6 billion budget. Indeed, one of the Deputy's most important roles is to serve as a forceful advocate within the Administration for the Department's programs in the development of the President's budget. The Deputy Secretary also acts as the Secretary's primary advisor and surrogate. With the support of this Committee, and the hardworking men and women of the Department, I am confident I can maintain the high standards set by my predecessors and support the commitment to excellence embodied by Secretary Gutierrez.

If confirmed by the Senate, I would bring valuable experience and knowledge to the office of Deputy Secretary. For the past two and a half years, I have served as the Department's General Counsel – acting as the agency's chief legal officer and providing legal advice to the Secretary and senior officials as they conduct their vital work. Handling the myriad legislative, regulatory, and administrative issues faced daily in the Department – from management of marine fisheries to regulation of international trade – has given me a unique perspective into the needs and goals of the Department and its bureaus.

In my two decades of law practice, I have had the privilege of serving in a wide variety of positions: as a law clerk to Judge John Minor Wisdom and to Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter; as Counselor to the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Office of Legal Counsel at the Justice Department; as a partner in the international law firm now known as Mayer Brown; as Deputy General Counsel of the Department of Defense; and in my current position as General Counsel of the Department of Commerce.

In these varied roles, I believe I have developed the skills and experience necessary to address the challenges and opportunities facing the Commerce Department. Yet I also recognize that I have much to learn about facets of the Department that I have not worked with on a regular basis. As I look forward to this continued education, I know that I will be well supported by the deep and talented staff of career employees and other professionals at the Department. I am confident that, with their support, I will perform my duties with the skill and professionalism that President Bush, the members of this Committee, Secretary Gutierrez, and the public, expect and deserve.

If confirmed, I will work side-by-side with Secretary Gutierrez as he leads the Department's focus on economic growth and job creation. We will promote the wise stewardship of our environment and our natural resources. We will open foreign markets. We will work to level the playing field for America's businesses, farmers, and workers. We will insist that our trading partners fully comply with our trade agreements. We will foster technological innovation. We will defend intellectual property rights. We will implement effective export controls. And we will oversee the collection of sound economic and demographic statistics. I look forward to the prospect of working with this Committee on these and other important issues.

Permit me to conclude with my firm conviction that stewardship through public service is a special privilege and responsibility. If confirmed, I will commit my utmost energies, integrity, and devotion to serving the President and the American people. Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today, and for your consideration of my nomination.

I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you may have for me.