

## **Prepared Statement of Robert Cresanti**

Chairman Stevens, Co-Chairman Inouye, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today regarding my nomination for the position of Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology, at the Department of Commerce's Technology Administration (TA). I am honored to have been nominated by President Bush and I wish to thank him, Commerce Secretary Gutierrez, and Deputy Secretary Sampson for their support.

I would also like to recognize my wife, Colleen; my daughters, Katja and Kristin, of whom I am very proud; along with my parents, Sam and Christa Cresanti, who are seated behind me this afternoon. Without their love and support, I would not be here before you today.

In my family, public service has always been a high calling. My father served as a member of the United States Air Force and later as a long time, dedicated civil servant for the Department of Defense. He instilled in me the importance of serving our country. As my role model, he is the foundation of my deep commitment to and belief in public service. I spent nine years as a Congressional staffer and the last five years as an advocate for technology industry organizations.

My focus on technology issues matured right here in the Senate, when I worked with many Members of this Committee and their staff to address the Year 2000 Technology Problem. From that experience, I learned that government can, and often must, play an influential role in setting the stage for the development of new technologies as well as the use of existing technologies to address the challenges that confront our nation. In a global economy where borders continue to blur, it is essential for the government to have an appreciation for and understanding of the important role that new innovations, along with traditional hardware and software, play in ensuring our nation's technological leadership.

As President Bush acknowledged in his State of the Union Address, America's economic strength and global leadership depend on sustained technological progress. Advances in technology continue to fundamentally change virtually every aspect of our daily lives, including advances in public safety, national defense, education, health care, communication, transportation, financial services, and entertainment – just to name a few. These innovations have also enhanced our economic growth, resulting in higher rates of investment, high-wage job growth, and increases in productivity.

The United States is second to none in the creation and use of technology. Our technological leadership is the result of lasting public and private investments in research and development. Sowing the seeds of innovation, unleashing the private sector and thereby keeping the United States competitive in the world marketplace is the central job of a Technology Administration. From information technology to biotechnology, to

technology on the nanoscale, and all of the fields in between, new technologies and applications are being developed at a fast and furious pace. With further investment, they will lead to the introduction of commercial innovations in the form of new products and processes. If confirmed, I would outline and help effectuate the strategy to continue TA's work in paving the way for appropriate government support of industry's rapid advances in technological development. I would also help foster an environment conducive to private sector investment in innovation, which will boost our country's economic performance.

For the billions of taxpayer dollars invested in research and development, TA has a key role in helping to ensure a high rate of return on investment. In this environment of constrained resources and competing priorities, there is a premium placed on leveraging programs and funding to maximize their impact on the leadership and growth of the American economy. If confirmed, I will use my results-oriented experience in the technology industry to guide me in finding efficient ways to promote the mechanisms and capture the data necessary to ensure and measure our return on investment.

The proposition is simple: innovation and competitiveness are the principal drivers for our future economic success. Innovation springs up in all sorts of places, from the backyard garage to government labs. It is essential for TA to play a strong role in nurturing entrepreneurial startups and promoting innovative activity in high-tech businesses to sustain and build on our competitive capabilities in the global marketplace.

If confirmed by this Committee and the Senate, I will work to ensure that America remains the best place in the world for technology companies to do business, to innovate, to prosper and to invest. I will energize the voice of the technology industry from the perspective of the Department of Commerce within the Administration. TA would serve as a one-stop-shop for U.S. industry representatives to discuss and resolve critical issues that challenge their ability to thrive, many of which you have already discussed in your hearings about the latest National Academies of Sciences Report titled, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm."

The President has rightly stated "the role of the government is not to create wealth; the role of our government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which minds can expand, [and] in which technologies can reach new frontiers." If confirmed, I pledge my support for that proposition.

I have had the opportunity to meet several Members of the Committee and your staff since my nomination. I deeply respect this process and will continue to seek opportunities to work closely with the Committee to plot a course to meeting any challenges to America's technological leadership.

Again, I want to thank you for your consideration of my nomination, and for giving me the opportunity to appear before you today. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.