

PREPARED STATEMENT OF CARL B. KRESS  
NOMINEE FOR COMMISSIONER ON THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
UNITED STATES SENATE

October 23, 2007

Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I am honored to have been nominated by the President to serve as a Commissioner on the Federal Maritime Commission, and to be considered by this Committee.

I would like to take a moment to express particular thanks to my parents, retired Army Col. Carl Franklin and Roswitha Kress, for their guidance and support over the years. They were unfortunately not able to fly out from California today but are certainly here in spirit. I would also like to thank for her support my wonderful fiancée, Molly Gower, who is here today, as is her family, and my many friends and colleagues who have been with me over the years.

Ensuring both the efficiency and security of our nation's trade flows is a complex and challenging task in this post 9/11 environment, and I seek the opportunity to contribute to that vital goal as a Commissioner.

Trade is a cornerstone of our nation's economy, and maritime commerce makes up the lion's share. According to the American Association of Port Authorities, 99 percent of U.S. trade by weight and 61% by value is carried by ocean-going vessels, and in 2006 more than 8 million U.S. jobs were related to port activities.

The Federal Maritime Commission's role as the independent body responsible for regulating ocean borne transportation in the foreign commerce of the United States places the agency in a key position in America's commerce. The Commission fosters a fair, efficient and secure maritime transportation system through its polices and regulations, protects U.S. maritime commerce from unfair foreign trade practices, works with shippers to ensure compliance with U.S. shipping laws, and assists in dispute resolution. If confirmed, I look forward to applying my experience in international trade law and practice, and my years as a leader in federal service, to ensuring the Commission's continued success in executing its important roles.

I believe that my tenure at the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), my experience on the personal staff of a Commissioner at the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC), and my background as an attorney in private practice together provide a strong foundation for successfully advancing the Federal Maritime Commission's mission.

I have worked for the past eight years for the federal government on trade-related issues, at the USITC and USTDA. My six years at the U.S. Trade and Development Agency have been focused on the agency's mission of connecting U.S. exports of goods and services with economic development projects around the globe. As a Regional Director I am responsible for supporting economic development projects and pursuing a more level playing field for U.S. exporters in the Middle East and North Africa. Previously, as the agency's Chief of Staff I took part in all aspects of leading and managing the agency.

As Counsel to a Commissioner at the USITC, an independent regulatory agency like the Federal Maritime Commission, my responsibilities covered all aspects of the Commissioner's work, including application of laws and regulations to cases before the USITC. In private practice with a large international law firm I was responsible for legal and regulatory matters that would be applicable in reviewing disputes that come before the Commission.

If confirmed, I will execute my duties with fairness and objectivity. This will include a careful review of the facts and applicable laws and regulations for all matters coming before the Commission. Additionally, it will be my ongoing responsibility to reach out to and work with the Commission's many important stakeholders, including shippers, marine terminal operators, ocean transportation intermediaries, private citizens, and U.S. exporters and importers. To best serve these important constituencies, I look forward to collaborating with each of them, and to establishing a strong relationship with you and the members of your staff, in the service of our joint goals of ensuring the safety, security, and efficiency of our nation's maritime commerce.

Again, Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today, and thank you for your and your staff's consideration of my nomination. I would be pleased to answer any questions that you have.