

Statement of Mary A. Toman
Nominee for Under Secretary for Economic Affairs
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

June 16, 2020

Good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Cantwell, and distinguished members of the Committee. Thank you for inviting me today.

What a great country that someone like me, the first in my family to speak English as a native language, could be at this hearing before such a distinguished Senate Committee. I am grateful to President Donald Trump, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, and many others for having the confidence in me to nominate me for Under Secretary for Economic Affairs at the Department of Commerce. I am deeply humbled and honored.

I am grateful to my family and friends: my energetic 96 year old mother Mary; my very supportive husband of 31 years Milt Miller; and my daughter Mary Ann whom I respect for simultaneously balancing law school and childcare for her young daughter.

One reason for my interest in returning to public service is my strong desire to give others the opportunities I have had. New prospects for economic growth must be identified and communicated to all.

If confirmed, I would oversee an important Constitutional responsibility, the 2020 Decennial Census. I will do everything in my power to ensure that everyone is counted. I will work with Congress and your staffs to ensure that the 2020 Decennial Census is completed fully and accurately. Data security, privacy, and confidentiality are also paramount.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis calculates our country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and other key economic indicators. One of my goals is to make this treasure trove of data increasingly accessible to all users so new jobs can be identified. That's how to expand our manufacturing base, services and exports.

The Under Secretary is also responsible for macroeconomic and fiscal policy analyses. Regaining the momentum that prevailed in our economy as recently as February is key. We must use our resilient economic engine to restore employment with the innovation and adaptability that have traditionally driven America's growth.

The digital data world is upon us and can boost productivity. We must reflect innovation effectively in our analyses and communications. The Commerce Department is at the forefront of these government-wide efforts, serving as a lead of the Federal Data Strategy and the implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act. The Under Secretary's Office drives this forward for the Department. I understand the importance of the

Department using its data to both guide its own decision-making, as well as increasing access to data for American businesses and households.

In my previous position as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Commerce Department, we produced key industry statistics for over 120 industries. Much of this directly complemented the data produced in Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis. I led trade negotiations with the Government of Japan that significantly increased U.S. exports and brought more jobs to America. Encouraging job growth is a key goal for the Commerce Department. If confirmed, I will take that objective to heart daily to produce incisive economic information. Data opens doors.

In my time as Deputy Treasurer of the State of California, we used Commerce data extensively. We managed about \$200 billion, including the CalPERS and CalSTRS pension funds. That experience would become directly relevant as the Under Secretary advises the Secretary of Commerce in his role as a member of the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation board.

My career has been balanced between government public service and the private sector. At Procter & Gamble, we used Commerce statistics daily for forecasts and new product markets. As a Commissioner of the City of Los Angeles, we relied on Commerce data to project growth and resource allocation, so I understand the practical side of how Commerce data is used.

If reported favorably by this committee and confirmed by the full Senate, I look forward to working with you and your staffs. I will always be interested in hearing your priorities and working with you cooperatively. Working together, anything is possible in America.

Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to answering any questions.