

Statement of Michael J.K. Kratsios

Nominee for Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

February 25, 2025

Thank you, Sen. Hagerty, for your generous introduction, and thank you, Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and the other members of this esteemed committee for inviting me to appear before you today.

Let me also give my thanks to my family, some of whom are in attendance. To my parents, John and Maria, my sister Kaity, my brother-in-law Mark, and my beautiful wife, Alissa – thank you. I could not have come this far without your love and encouragement.

It is the honor of my lifetime to sit before this committee as President Donald J. Trump’s nominee for Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. In his second inaugural address, the President promised that his administration will work to usher in the Golden Age of America. I believe in that promise, and will dedicate myself to fulfilling it.

In the last Trump Administration, as the fourth Chief Technology Officer of the United States, and an Associate Director of OSTP, I led national initiatives on artificial intelligence and quantum information science. I promulgated budget priorities that led to the Federal Government doubling research and development spending in those areas. I drafted non-regulatory guidance for emerging technologies to give the public trust in how these technologies are developed and used. I saw firsthand how the actions that we took at OSTP could enable new industries to take hold, and to deliver benefits to the American people.

For a century, the United States has stood at the forefront of science and technology. We split the atom, for war and for peace. We put a man on the moon and brought him back again. And with the transistor and the integrated circuit, we steered the globe into the digital age.

Thanks to these breakthroughs, Americans have enjoyed unprecedented economic prosperity. We must preserve that inheritance to share with future generations, and to ensure that the tools and technologies that give shape to our world always help people to live productive, meaningful lives.

In recent years, other countries have sought to supplant the United States and claim science and technology leadership for themselves. In particular, China has emerged as both our preeminent geopolitical rival and our most formidable technological and scientific competitor.

Central to this competition is the new frontier of scientific discovery that lies before us. The shape of future global order will be defined by whomever leads across AI, quantum, nuclear, and other critical and emerging technologies. Chinese progress in nuclear fusion, quantum technologies, and autonomous systems all press home the urgency of the work ahead.

As President Trump has said, “as our global competitors race to exploit these technologies, it is a national security imperative for the United States to achieve and maintain unquestioned and unchallenged global technological dominance.”

The Office of Science and Technology Policy will be critical to this effort, in advising the President and coordinating the national initiatives needed to rise to the challenge and deliver for the American people. I am committed to American leadership in emerging technologies, and to ensuring that all Americans benefit from scientific and technological advances. As Director, I will build a deep bench of policy experts to ensure that the President and the White House have the necessary technical advice to meet the challenges of our moment.

If we are to lead the world in science and technology for the next century, to continue to provide for the American citizenry, to enhance our national security, to imprint the future with American character and improve the welfare of all mankind, the only way to do so will be to double down on what has made our history of innovation great: the uniquely American free-market approach to scientific discovery, which harnesses the combined strengths of government, industry, and academia.

With your support, this administration will usher in a Golden Age of American Innovation.

Thank you. I look forward to your questions.