

OPENING STATEMENT OF DANA BAIOTTO
NOMINEE TO THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
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Good morning Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, and members of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. I am honored to be before you today as a nominee to a vital, independent agency, the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

I would like to thank President Donald Trump for nominating me. I am humbled by his confidence and, if confirmed by the Senate, I will strive every day to carry out my duties to the American people with focus, clarity, and compassion. I will do so in a manner consistent with the high expectations of this Committee.

Please allow me the indulgence of introducing to you my family and friends, who are here today. My husband, Andy Susko, is here with me. Although we have only been married a short time, he is a constant source of comfort and support. My daughter, Ava Bruening, is also here today. She is a sophomore at Brimmer and May School in Boston, Massachusetts. She is missing school to be here but, I think today she will have a rare opportunity to see our system of government in action. My parents, Joyce and Jerry Baiocco, are here from Ohio, my sister Stacey Williams and my niece, Morgan Williams, are also here from Ohio. My stepson and daughter-in-law, Matt and Nicole Susko, are watching online from their home in New Hampshire. I am also lucky to have several of my colleagues and friends here today. I would like to thank all of the good, hard-working people in my hometown of Yorkville, Ohio, for the hundreds of notes of support that my family has received. They remind me of what an enormous responsibility I will have, if confirmed, as they are just a small sample of the American people, who I and the agency as a whole, will work for.

I was born in West Virginia, raised in Ohio, and attended Ohio University, where I received a degree in Journalism. I was accepted into the 4-year night school program at Duquesne University School of Law in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. During my last year of night school, and for one year after graduation, I served as a federal law clerk to the Honorable Gustave Diamond in the District Court of the Western District of Pennsylvania. I became an associate at Jones Day

in 1998 and a partner of the firm in 2007. I moved to Boston to help open the firm's Boston office in 2011. In my opinion, Jones Day and the lawyers and staff at this global law firm, are second to none, not only in terms of intellectual and legal acumen, but also in terms of mentorship, collegiality, and client service. I have learned something from each and every person I have met over the last 19 years at Jones Day and I thank them all. My successes have come, not on my own, but always as a part of a team.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission plays an important role in the safety of our nation's consumers. If confirmed, I will bring to the Commission, all of the skills I have developed and built over my career. I will be guided by the rule of law, I will promote transparency between the Commission and all of its stakeholders, and I will encourage an open door policy between the Commission and all advocacy groups. Rigorous debate and an open mind to all points of view are essential to any good decision-making process.

I will work in a collaborative way with my fellow Commissioners and with this Committee because collaboration matters. Safety and protection of the American people are not partisan issues. They are all inclusive. The CPSC is charged with a mission that touches on every single person in this room and beyond, including my family, your families, and the families across America. The issues that come before the CPSC are often complicated and require the study and analysis of laws, regulations, science, and the application of common sense.

If confirmed, there are substantive areas that I would like to focus on as a Commissioner. First, the Commission must have a plan to stay as current as possible with technology and the new and unique types of consumer products coming onto the market every day. We need to understand the data, science, and process underlying a product to stay abreast of marketplace dynamics, changing consumer preferences, and to maintain vigilance over emerging hazards. If confirmed, I will draw upon my experiences and I will meet with all stakeholders, continuing my philosophy of seeing, touching, and learning the products to help the Commission stay well informed.

Second, I think the Commission must always work to protect consumers from unreasonable risks while balancing the American public's right to have access to a range of affordable product choices and recreational activities. We are all very different people and our choices and interests are many. Finally, I know the Commission is currently looking at the issue of recall effectiveness,

and I look forward to contributing my own ideas to make sure consumers are being reached across a variety of platforms.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and to appear before the Committee today. I look forward to answering your questions.