

Testimony of Bruce Andrews  
Nominee for Deputy Secretary  
United States Department of Commerce

Before the  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
United States Senate

*June 11, 2014*

Chairman Rockefeller, Ranking Member Thune, and Members of the Committee, thank you for having me here today regarding my nomination as the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce. It is a great honor to be back at the Commerce Committee, although I recall it being more fun on your side of the dais than this side.

I would first like to introduce my wonderful family who is here with me today – my wife Didem; my daughters, Ella and Dahlia; and my parents, Bill and Ginger Andrews, who came from Syracuse, New York for this hearing.

It is a true honor to be nominated to be the Deputy Secretary of Commerce. When I first moved to Washington, D.C. 24 years ago, I planned to stay for only a few years and then return to my hometown of Syracuse, New York. From a young age, my father, a World War II combat infantryman, who spent his entire life engaged in his community, and my mother, a social worker who has devoted her life to helping others, taught me and my siblings the importance of public service and giving back to your community and your country. I have carried and nurtured my commitment to public service throughout my professional career.

During my work in both the public and private sectors, I have had the opportunity to see the important work of the Department of Commerce from a variety of perspectives.

In my position as Chief of Staff to the Secretary, I have served as a senior leader in the Department – overseeing its operations (including the 12 bureaus and over 44,000 employees), and have been heavily involved in creating and implementing the Department’s strategic plan. During my tenure, I have become familiar with every aspect of the Department and Secretary Pritzker’s vision for it. If confirmed, I will work hard to advance the Department’s agenda and continue to build upon our success as the voice of business in the Administration.

My experience in the private sector at Ford Motor Company gave me a strong appreciation for the ways in which the Department of Commerce can help create the favorable conditions to help American businesses thrive.

And as General Counsel of this Committee, I had the unique opportunity to see the operations of the Commerce Department from an oversight perspective and understand the importance of the Department working closely with Congress.

If confirmed, I will apply these skills and experiences to help American businesses and workers achieve success in the global marketplace.

That is what we do at the Commerce Department, help the American public and American businesses by creating the conditions for economic growth, through our diverse programs.

I have seen firsthand the valuable work of the Department and its hardworking employees. Under Secretary Pritzker's leadership, the Department is laser-focused on developing and implementing our "Open for Business Agenda."

One of the key elements underlying the Department's strategic plan is a focus on customer service and providing high quality assistance to our stakeholders. Like a business, we have a number of customers who rely on our services and products, and we are very focused on delivering value for our customers and the American taxpayer.

In order to deliver value, it is critical that the Department is well run. The Deputy Secretary serves as the Chief Operating Officer of the organization and is very focused on the Department's operations. Secretary Pritzker made "Operational Excellence" one of the key pillars of the Department's Strategic Plan because we need to constantly improve our efficiency and the Department's operations. If confirmed as Deputy Secretary, this will be one of my primary objectives.

I have had the honor to work for a number of great leaders during my career – Secretary Pritzker; Alan Mulally and Mark Fields at Ford Motor Company; and you, Senator Rockefeller. And one of the things that I have learned from these experiences is that leadership matters. Leaders set the vision and tone for an organization and play a key role in leading the team. I am proud of our

Commerce employees and am excited for the opportunity to help lead the Department as Deputy Secretary.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Commerce team and with this committee to strengthen the Department, help our stakeholders, grow the economy, and make our country a better place.

Thank you for your consideration of my nomination. I am happy to respond to any questions members of the committee may have.