U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

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Opening Statement of Senator Chuck Grassley
Finance Committee on Nominations
Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2006

It is my pleasure to welcome six nominees to the Finance Committee today. They will each bring a great deal of experience to the positions for which they have been nominated, and I am sure all of them are eager to get started in their new roles. First, I am pleased to welcome Anthony Ryan, the President's nominee to be Treasury Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets. Mr. Ryan currently serves at the Treasury Department as Senior Advisor to the Secretary. Next I would like to welcome Phillip Swagel, nominated to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy. Dr. Swagel is currently a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

Also appearing before the Committee today are two very qualified nominees to the International Trade Commission. First we have Mr. Irving Williamson, who has had a diverse career in international trade and policy. Mr. Williamson spent 18 years as a foreign service officer at the State Department before moving on to work as a manager of trade policy at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. He then served 5 years as Deputy General Counsel in the Office of the United States Trade Representative. Most recently, he comes before the Committee as president of Williamson International Trade Strategies, a consulting firm focused on international trade law.
In addition, we have Mr. Dean Pinkert, who has had an extensive career in the administration and application of U.S. trade laws. Mr. Pinkert has spent over 13 years working in the Office of Chief Counsel for Import Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce. He has also practiced international trade law in private practice, and he served as trade and judiciary counsel to our colleague, Senator Byrd.

I would also like to welcome our two nominees for the Social Security Advisory Board, Dana Bilyeu and Mark Warshawsky. They both have a great deal of experience in the area of retirement policy and are well qualified to serve on the Board.

Once again I would like to welcome all of our nominees to the Committee. With that, let me turn to my distinguished friend and colleague, the Ranking Member of the Finance Committee, Senator Baucus.