

Statement of Josette S. Shiner
Nominee for Deputy United States Trade Representative
Before the Senate Committee on Finance
June 26, 2003

Chairman Grassley, Senator Baucus, and Members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today as President Bush's nominee for Deputy United States Trade Representative.

I would like to begin by offering my sincere thanks to President Bush for affording me the opportunity to serve the American people. I thank Ambassador Robert B. Zoellick for his excellent leadership and for the world class team he has forged at USTR. And I would like to thank the Congress, the Finance Committee and their staffs, for the vital partnership they have provided. I am honored by the trust and confidence placed in me, and, if confirmed, I will do my best to discharge the duties and obligations of this office with enthusiasm, dedication, and humility.

Three weeks ago, June 6, marked the 59th anniversary of D-Day - the day my father, a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne, jumped from the skies over Nazi-occupied France to help free Europe from the Axis powers. In that morning of darkness and danger for Allied soldiers, Private James Sheeran was separated from his unit and captured by German troops. He escaped from the prison train, and fought behind enemy lines in occupied France before meeting up with the liberating American troops.

But my father's commitment to his country – and to public service – did not end there. He refused an offer to return home, choosing instead to continue to fight in the Netherlands and Bastogne. Back from the war, he served in the FBI, as two-term mayor of West Orange, New Jersey and as a member of Governor Byrne's cabinet. He instilled in me a deep and abiding love for my country – and the knowledge that our freedoms have been hard earned by the bravery and blood of others. He has been my hero, a model of public service and sacrifice, and I am proud to have him here with me today.

As someone with a background in business, media and public policy, it is perhaps not surprising that I entered government expecting to encounter a slow-moving bureaucracy. My two years working as Associate USTR have helped prepare me to serve as Ambassador Zoellick's deputy, and have informed my thinking about how executive agencies can and should operate. My colleagues at USTR represent the best of public service: They are tough, hard-working negotiators, unfailingly good natured, creative, skilled at drawing out the capabilities and knowledge of others - and they approach work not just as participants, but as problem-solvers, people who make things happen for their country.

The dedicated professionals at USTR demonstrate more than just skill at the negotiating table; because they are passionate about their work, they often go beyond their core duties to ensure nations can meet their commitments to the United States and participate in global trade. For example, when I joined USTR, Rosa Whitaker, the

founding director of USTR's Africa office, was giving sanitary/phytosanitary workshops in the bush lands of Tanzania. And Katrin Khulman, from USTR's Europe office, who led an adventurous all-female delegation of intellectual property experts to Uzbekistan and Armenia to host workshops that ultimately prompted improvements in those countries' IP laws.

My colleagues have given me tremendous support. Over the past weeks, I have met with many former USTRs and Deputy USTRs who have given me the benefit of their experience and advice. Ambassador Zoellick and his deputies - Peter Allgeier, Linnet Deily, and, of course, Jon Huntsman - have set a high standard of leadership excellence at USTR. If confirmed, I pledge to continue his record of achievement and integrity. And I am proud and honored to inherit a fine career USTR team from Ambassador Huntsman – including Assistant USTRs Wendy Cutler, Ralph Ives and Florie Liser.

Because of its small size - about 200 positions with a small number of ever-essential detailees - the people at USTR are, of necessity, constantly drawing on others from government and the private sector. My colleagues and I especially appreciate the advice and direction we receive from the Congress. This guidance is a critical part of pursuing a trade agenda that reflects the interests of the American people. And I have personally come to rely on the professionalism and knowledge of Hill staffers who work on trade - it has been a pleasure interacting with them.

Under the leadership of President Bush, Ambassador Zoellick, and the Congress, the U.S. trade agenda is moving forward at all levels: global, regional, and bilateral. We seek to both ensure compliance with existing commitments and to open new opportunities for America.

The Doha Development Agenda in the WTO is at the heart of our efforts. We have advanced bold proposals to eliminate tariffs on manufactured goods, to open markets for our farmers and ranchers and implement deep cuts in farm tariffs and trade-distorting subsidies, and open the global market for services. I believe the Doha agenda represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the American businesses and farmers that drive the most innovative economy in the world: a chance to open new markets for their goods and services and, at the same time, a chance to help spur economic and political progress across the developing world. Our challenge is to help usher in a new generation of successes - to write anew the uplifting story of the Asian tigers in places like Morocco, El Salvador, and Botswana.

Over the past two and a half years, we have signed free trade agreements with Jordan, Singapore, and Chile; and are now negotiating new FTAs with Morocco, the Southern African Customs Union, the Central American Common Market, and Australia. We helped bring China and Taiwan - more than a billion consumers - into the World Trade Organization and are assisting other nations, such as Russia and Cambodia, with their accession to the WTO. We are making progress on establishing a Free Trade Area of the Americas, have launched the Enterprise for ASEAN initiative and have extended a

hand of hope and opportunity through expanded preferential trade programs with African and Andean nations.

Opening markets will not be our only challenge in the years ahead. We are committed to ensuring that nations live up to their trade obligations. Increasingly, the United States will need to devote resources to monitoring, enforcing, and ensuring that others implement their trade commitments. And for the world's poorest nations just entering the trading system, we extend a hand of partnership to help them meet their commitments. We do this through the powerful pairing of trade and aid - capacity building aimed at building open, sustainable economies that generate prosperity for their peoples and commercial opportunities for U.S. businesses.

Most of all, I believe the United States must maintain a positive commitment to solve problems: a willingness on the part of all parties - negotiators, legislators, businesses, and NGOs - to work toward constructive solutions in all trade matters, as we have sought to do in our recent agreements with Chile and Singapore. If confirmed, I will strive to help promote a trading system that encourages all countries to reach together for higher standards and a better quality of life for all.

Before closing, I would like to recognize the friends, family and colleagues with us today who have loved, supported and nurtured me throughout my life and career. My mother passed on last year, but her unfailing belief in me was a gift from God. My father, Jim Sheeran, and my step-mother, Lena Chang Sheeran, my brother and sisters and their

spouses are my anchors and all traveled far to support me today. The lights of my life - my three children Nicole, Daniel and Gabrielle - got to vote on my accepting this nomination, and gave me full support knowing the sacrifices ahead. My family - with its roots in Ireland, France, China and Africa - are a living example of the glorious diversity that is America and I am deeply indebted to them.

Mr. Chairman, Senator Baucus, Members of the Committee: as I have traveled throughout the world during the past two years, I have been proud to represent a nation that is generous, tolerant and fair. I thank you again for this opportunity to appear before you and I will be pleased to answer any questions that you may have.