

**STATEMENT OF DEANNA TANNER OKUN  
NOMINEE, DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
Before the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
April 17, 2008**

**Mr. Chairman, Senator Grassley, 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 am grateful to the President for nominating me for a position central to pursuing America's pro-growth trade agenda. I last appeared before this Committee over eight years ago when I was a nominee for my current position as Commissioner with the U.S. International Trade Commission. I know the Committee places a strong emphasis on nominees who will open overseas markets by defending America's trade interests and enforcing our trade agreements.**

**If confirmed, I look forward to representing the United States in the international trade arena by enforcing and defending U.S. trade laws, breaking down barriers to trade and investment, and pursuing market-opening opportunities that benefit America's manufacturers, ranchers, farmers, service providers and workers. I pledge to vigorously pursue every avenue – both bilaterally and multilaterally - to enforce our trade laws. USTR is tasked with opening markets and ensuring they stay open. As Ambassador Schwab has said, negotiation and enforcement are “both equally important tools in our fight to keep American workers competitive in the international market. Absent effective enforcement, a trade agreement can become just another piece of paper. . . . Every single negotiator who works for USTR understands that a core part of his or her job is holding other governments to their word.” Mr. Chairman, I want to reassure this Committee that, if confirmed, my top priority will be to ensure that our trading partners live up to their trade obligations.**

**America's trade policy ultimately depends on a partnership between Congress and the President, which in turn is dependent on the level of trust between Members of Congress and the President and his team. If I am confirmed by the Senate, I will strive to establish a strong working relationship with the Members of this Committee. I will seek your advice, and I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and to travel to your states to hear first-hand from your constituents about trade issues important to them.**

**Mr. Chairman, I have served the public for 15 years, first as a legislative aide in the U.S. Senate and for the last eight years as a Commissioner on the U.S. International Trade Commission. My public service, combined with my private sector experience as a lawyer, has provided a unique perspective on the tangible effects of trade in our economy. I have a deep appreciation for the importance of enforcing our trade laws and holding our trading partners accountable to their commitments. If confirmed, I**

**will put my experience to work on behalf of America's workers, farmers and ranchers.**

**As a Commissioner, I have developed extensive knowledge about the challenges faced by U.S. manufacturers, service providers, and agriculture in today's global marketplace. I have participated in more than 1,000 antidumping and/or countervailing duty cases, safeguard, and other types of cases brought by the domestic industry under U.S. trade laws. Through adjudicating trade remedy cases at the Commission, I have gained unique insight into the importance of enforcing the trade rules. Much of my experience is based on "hands-on" learning where I have had the opportunity to travel across the United States and to other countries to visit factories and farms.**

**Mr. Chairman, I also am a former Senate staffer. For seven years I served as an aide to Senator Frank Murkowski – who sat on this Committee – advising him on trade and foreign policy issues. I want to assure this Committee that I understand the critical role Congress plays in developing U.S. trade policy and the importance of maintaining a healthy working relationship between the Administration and Congress, and with the members of the Committee in particular. If confirmed, as a member of the President's trade team, I pledge to continue to work closely with the Congress.**

**On a personal note, I grew up in rural southern Idaho and know first-hand the issues facing our farming communities, which are the backbone of our trade exporting community. If confirmed, I will bring this first-hand knowledge to the role of the Deputy USTR.**

**If confirmed, my public and private sector experience, as well as my education and background, will enable me to effectively serve our country as Deputy United States Trade Representative.**

**Let me close by once again thanking the President for nominating me as Deputy United States Trade Representative. I also would like to reiterate my appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, to Senator Grassley, and to the other Members of the Committee for allowing me to appear before you today.**

**Last, and most importantly, I would like to thank my husband, Bob, my children, Rachel and Kelsi, and my parents and sister for their support for me while I have been in public service.**

**Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I would be pleased to answer any questions that you may have, and, of course, to respond to any Senator's written inquiries.**