

Statement of John B. Emerson
Ambassador Designate to the Federal Republic of Germany
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

July 25, 2013

Mister Chairman, Ranking Member Johnson, and distinguished Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, thank you for the privilege of appearing before you today.

I would also like to thank my friends Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer for their kind words in support of my nomination to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. I am deeply grateful to President Obama and Secretary Kerry for this great honor, and for giving me the opportunity to work yet again as a public servant.

If you would permit me, I would like to introduce to the committee my wife, Kimberly Marteau Emerson. Kimberly worked at USIA during the Clinton Administration and subsequently she has been active in promoting public diplomacy and in the civic and cultural life of our community. I know that if I am confirmed to serve in Germany, she would be a great asset to our country. Our three teenage girls, Jackie, Taylor and Hayley, are unable to be with us today, but they would be enthusiastically accompanying us as well.

If confirmed by the Senate, I will have the privilege of returning to Germany for the fourth time in four separate decades. Both Kimberly and I share a deep German heritage, through my paternal and her maternal grandparents. From my youth, I have had an interest in the culture and the people of Germany—although I will admit that my decision at age 12 to begin studying the German language may have had more to do with the fact that my father and grandmother would speak it when they didn't want me to know what they were discussing!

I first visited Germany upon graduating from college, staying with my former German history professor who had moved to Berlin and who subsequently spent many years working for this committee—Michael Haltzel. A decade later, I was selected by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung to be one of four Americans from the public sector to travel the country and participate in meetings with local and federal German officials. During these visits and subsequent family travel, I have been struck by the warmth of the German people, as well as the special relationship that America and Germany share. The partnership between our two countries is one of our most important alliances, as we confront the economic and security challenges of the present day.

If confirmed, I would work with our German partners to ensure financial and economic stability in the Eurozone, as a successful European market base allows

for increased American business opportunities. I would work to support Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations as appropriate, and if they are successfully concluded, would focus on promoting trade and investment with Germany. While serving in the Clinton White House, I had the privilege of managing our efforts to secure Congressional approval of the Uruguay Round of the GATT, working closely with then-White House Fellow, Michael Froman. I look forward to working with now-U.S. Trade Representative Froman on TTIP-related issues. It is critical that we incorporate economic statecraft at all levels of our diplomacy. I hope to build on my experience in business and global investment management to engage in promoting U.S. business interests, and thereby help create jobs here at home.

Germany is an important NATO ally and a committed partner in combating terrorism and promoting our mutual national security. Germany hosts approximately 45,000 American troops that remain vital to our shared security interests, including beyond Europe. As Ambassador, I would encourage Germany to continue its strong support of NATO. Germany leads the Alliance in terms of number of troops deployed to Kosovo, and it has an important leadership role in Afghanistan, leading efforts in the north and providing 4,200 troops. Germany has also indicated willingness to continue to lead NATO efforts in northern Afghanistan post-2014. Germany has deployed two Patriot surface-to-air missile

batteries in response to Turkey's request for NATO ballistic missile defense support. Germany also is actively engaged in peace and security and nonproliferation efforts Syria and Iran. It has co-hosted the Friends of Syrian People working group for economic development and established, together with the UAE, a Trust Fund for Syria, to support Syrian reconstruction. It has also pledged 125 million Euros for humanitarian assistance in Syria. Germany shares our commitment to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran through a dual-track approach of pressure and engagement. As a member of the P5+1, Germany is actively involved in efforts to reach a negotiated solution that addresses the international community's concerns over Iran's nuclear program.

Germany and the U.S. are leaders in energy transformation and as such, there is great opportunity for bilateral cooperation in emerging energy and environmentally-friendly technologies. If confirmed, I would support Germany's efforts to diversify its energy routes and sources, as well as the role it has and can continue to play in broader EU efforts to promote regional energy security. Germany has made impressive progress in developing renewable energy sources including wind and solar power. If confirmed, I would also work to see where U.S. companies with expertise in energy and environmental areas might be able to engage in this exciting market.

Mister Chairman, Ranking Member Johnson, and Members of the committee, I am honored to have been nominated to serve as Ambassador to a country that is so consequential to our economic and national security interests, as well as a place where I have strong personal connections. If confirmed, I would be excited to begin work during this key juncture in U.S.-German relations, in the approach to particularly as Germany's federal elections in September approach. If given the opportunity, I pledge that I will serve the American people with honor and dignity, and will work to foster an even stronger alliance between the United States and Germany based on our shared values.

Thank you for your consideration, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.