



Hearing on “Challenging China’s Trade Practices: Promoting Interests of U.S. Workers, Farmers, Producers, and Innovators”

Opening Statement of Commissioner Robin Cleveland

April 14, 2022

Washington, DC

Our hearing today will focus on a key aspect of the U.S-China relationship and this Commission’s mandate: trade. U.S. policymakers have long been dedicated to expanding market access and commercial opportunities. The United States has prioritized alignment with global trading rules and the formation of new rules to protect innovation and promote competition. As this Commission has observed in the last two decades, China’s policies and practices run contrary to the U.S. approach. China has repeatedly flouted its commitments to reciprocal access, protection of intellectual property, and equal treatment. The Chinese Communist Party has strengthened the hand of the state rather than the market, creating a cascade of negative effects around the globe. Chinese state and nonstate producers have drowned global markets with over capacity to eliminate competition and hollow out entire industries. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and Beijing’s failure to live up to its obligations under the Phase One Deal, it is clear that the United States and many of its allies must craft a more resilient approach to trade policy.

Our witnesses today have a deep bench of expertise and will focus on how to address a range of China’s distortive practices, from subsidies to IP theft. As China is reinforcing rather than retreating from its state-led approach, this hearing seeks to answer key questions about U.S. bilateral, regional, and multilateral trade policies. As current and past administrations have recognized, an accurate assessment of China’s strategy in the Indo-Pacific is necessary to correctly calibrate U.S. economic engagement in the region. Our challenge in this hearing is not only consideration of trade remedies, but also trade agreements, new structures, and new rules to mitigate the effect of Beijing’s distortions. I welcome the fact that 9 of our 12 witnesses have not appeared before the Commission and bring forward valuable new perspectives. We are also pleased to hear from three experts who have previously helped to shape the Commission’s views and welcome them back today. Thank you all for your knowledge and insight into this complex set of issues.