

**Statement of Christy Goldsmith Romero**  
**Confirmation Hearing**  
**U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry**  
**March 2, 2022**

Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, and members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today, and deeply grateful to President Biden for nominating me to be a Commissioner at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

I am pleased to recognize my wife Adrienne, who herself has 16 years of federal service, my three daughters Chelsea, Brooke, and Julia, and my son-in-law Seth. We are a close-knit family, and they are my foundation and my joy. I also would like to recognize my parents, my in-laws, and my siblings. I come from a military family who raised me to have a sense of duty and service to others. My father joined the U.S. Navy as a young man in the Philippines, became a U.S. citizen, and served our country for 20 years. My brother Scott has served in the U.S. Army Reserves for 34 years. They have inspired me in my 20 years of federal service, including at the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Treasury.

The CFTC's mission is to promote the integrity, resilience, and vibrancy of U.S. derivatives markets through sound regulation. Sound regulation contributes to U.S. markets being the strongest and safest in the world. The CFTC's jurisdiction is vast. Whether focused on hard commodities like agriculture, energy, or metals, or on the financial sector, the Commission plays a critical role in ensuring that these markets work well. That starts with the Agricultural sector – the farmers, ranchers, and producers our nation depends on – to put food on our tables and contribute to our nation's economic activity. For our farmers and ranchers to help drive our economy and feed the world, they need U.S. derivatives markets for risk management and price discovery. This requires the CFTC to fulfill its mission – a mission that I take to heart.

I have spent my career helping protect our markets. At the SEC, I worked to promote market integrity and protect investors. As senior counsel in the enforcement division, I investigated fraud and manipulation. I then served as counsel to SEC Chairman Christopher Cox (a Republican) and Mary Schapiro (an Independent), helping them oversee financial markets during a time of national crisis.

Through three administrations, I have served as the Special Inspector General over the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP) in Treasury, conducting law enforcement, and recommending improvements to federal programs to help our economy recover after the financial crisis. With criminal prosecutions of 465 defendants, civil actions against 25 financial institutions and entities, and \$11.3 billion recovered, SIGTARP helped safeguard the integrity of our markets and financial system. I am also an adjunct professor at the University of Virginia School of Law and Georgetown University Law Center, where I teach classes in cryptocurrencies and securities.

If confirmed, my highest priority would be to work to ensure that the markets are working well – that they are open, fair, and competitive. I would also prioritize identifying and mitigating risks that could threaten market integrity and resilience. For example, cybersecurity will continue to require risk mitigation.

Finally, I agree with Chair Behnam in prioritizing a culture of compliance coupled with strong enforcement to keep markets safe and promote market confidence. With my strong enforcement background, I have seen firsthand how enforcement contributes to a well-functioning market. If confirmed, I will work to protect markets and customers against fraud and manipulation, as I have done throughout my career.

As our markets evolve with emerging issues like digital assets and climate, regulators must be thoughtful and deliberate. It is important to learn the facts, listen to all sides, understand consequences of any action, and collaborate with other regulators. Being thoughtful helps keep markets resilient, transparent, and free of fraud and manipulation, while promoting responsible innovation.

My parents instilled in me the values of listening and respecting others – values that I would bring to the Commission if confirmed. I will make it a priority to engage with end users, such as farmers and ranchers. I value their expertise and their opinions. I am committed to maintaining a close relationship with this Committee and working with you on critical issues.

Serving my country is my way of giving back to a country that has given my family so many opportunities. Through 20 years of federal service, I have a broad and deep background in federal regulation to protect our markets and financial system stability. It would be an honor and privilege to use that experience to serve my country as a CFTC Commissioner. I commit to do all that I can to protect the integrity, resilience, and vibrancy of our markets so that they continue to be the strongest and safest in the world.