

Chairman Chambliss and Members of the Agriculture Committee, I am honored to sit before you today as a nominee to be a Commissioner at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. It is a true honor and privilege for the President to nominate me and to be considered for this distinguished position.

I would like to thank Senator Roberts and his staff for their support through this process as well as the agriculture committee staff for their assistance. I would also like to recognize my wonderful husband Mike Sommers, who is here with me today. We have three small children ages 2, 3, and 4 and, as I am sure you understand, we decided would be better left at home today.

I started working on Capitol Hill over 15 years ago for Senator Bob Dole as an intern during the last semester of my senior year of college at the University of Kansas. I worked for him in various capacities for almost five years and from Senator Dole I learned the importance of a fair and reasonable decision making process. I grew up in a small town in Southeast Kansas, Fort Scott. My parents have owned a small business in our farming community for 38 years. My parents taught me the value of hard work and integrity. I promise to bring all of the values of my Kansas roots with me to the Commission.

During my career, I have had the opportunity to work within the futures industry. It is a fascinating world which is constantly changing and innovating. For example, when I started with the Chicago Mercantile Exchange in 1998 their electronic trading platform was used for overnight or after hours trading and the electronic volume was less than 15% of their total volume. Today the CME trades millions of contracts a day electronically with a system that trades virtually 24 hours. Fortunately when Congress was tasked with reauthorizing the Commodity Exchange Act in 2000, they saw an industry that was quickly evolving and they created a framework to give the CFTC the appropriate regulatory tools to keep pace with the development in these markets. This bill and my work on it shaped fundamentally my view of how the government can and should interact with these markets. CFMA unleashed the power of the free market on the futures industry and did it in a way without sacrificing a rigorous enforcement structure at the CFTC.

The CFTC does an outstanding job of encouraging market growth while ensuring the integrity of the marketplace and protecting market users. The agency has taken this mission seriously and pursues very aggressive action against wrongdoers in the markets.

My regulatory philosophy rests on some of the basic principles Congress stressed during CFMA - fair and flexible supervision while providing strong and independent oversight.

Congress got it right in CFMA.

It did it through encouraging competitiveness and assuring legal certainty. Congress in its wisdom understood the truth that American entrepreneurs and traders are the best in the world if given the power to succeed.

Whether you are a farmer trading wheat in Kansas or a trader in Chicago buying Treasury Bonds, the CFTC regulates each market with a proper level of oversight. Every one of the contracts traded on each futures and options exchange in United States plays an important role and every market participant deserves to have confidence in the integrity and efficiency of those markets.

I understand that there are several challenging issues facing the Commission but as a mother of three children under the age of five, I know how to handle a challenge.

If confirmed by this Committee and the Senate, I would work hard to ensure that the CFTC continues its role of encouraging efficient, transparent and financially sound futures and options markets while protecting the public from fraud, manipulation and abusive practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.