

WRITTEN STATEMENT
Ambassador David Hale
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
The Need for an Authorized State Department
April 30, 2025

Dear Chairman Mast and Ranking Member Meeks,

Thank you for your April 23, 2025 invitation to testify before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on "The Need for an Authorized State Department" on April 30.

Having served for nearly four decades in the Foreign Service, reaching the senior-most rank of Career Ambassador, I look forward to the opportunity to offer my thoughts on what worked best at the State Department and what at times contributed to the organization missing the mark.

In particular, as a private citizen now, I look forward to expressing my support for the concept of a State Department authorization bill. It is long overdue. It can only help the State Department be more responsive to the American people.

I also welcome the opportunity to discuss your ideas on making the State Department relevant and nimble in addressing the ever-evolving national security challenges facing our country, and doing the most to make sure the personnel of the State Department have the direction, resources, mindset, and training needed to advance American interests globally.