**Statement of the Honorable Ben Black**
**Chief Executive Officer, United States International Development Finance Corporation**
**Before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs**
**"Ending Supply Chain Dependency: Aligning Tools, Capital, and Partnership"**
**July 15, 2026**

Thank you, Chairman Mast, Ranking Member Meeks, and members of the committee for this opportunity to discuss DFC's efforts to end supply chain dependency. I'm proud to be here today to represent the hundreds of committed professionals at DFC who work every day to advance our mission.

I would also like to thank you for your bipartisan support for DFC's reauthorization. While we may not always agree, I believe that all of us want DFC to help the growth of our friends and allies, and most importantly, strengthen the United States.

Thanks to last December's reauthorization, DFC now has 205 billion dollars of investment capacity and a greater ability to deploy debt, equity, and insurance across the capital stack and investment structures. We can now invest in technology, energy, and critical minerals nearly anywhere in the world, and address vulnerable supply chains wherever they exist.

In this era of increasing global competition, President Trump and Congress equipped our agency to be a leading force for restoring U.S. economic security. Since reauthorization, DFC has rebuilt our pipeline to more than 340 deal opportunities totaling $78 billion across agriculture, healthcare, financial services, energy, technology and telecommunications, and critical minerals. This is just the beginning. We are focused on regions vital to U.S. economic security like the Western Hemisphere, East Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, amongst others.

As CEO of DFC, I have made it my mission to transform DFC into a best-in-class financial institution. We have prioritized developing and training our existing talent and recruiting top financial professionals to further strengthen our team. We are serious about our duty to the American taxpayer and have begun a rigorous process to value DFC's entire portfolio dating back to our predecessor OPIC's early days. Not only do we look forward to presenting these findings, but going forward, we also intend to dynamically share investment performance for every administration – both previous and future. I'm also pleased to report that we have reduced investment timelines by an average of 10 weeks.

More importantly, I have sought to align DFC's investment strategy with the enduring principles of American economic statecraft that have made our nation an unprecedented engine of prosperity for both the American people and our allies. American economic statecraft – the use of our nation's economic and financial power to guarantee our strategic interests – has guided America through its most defining moments. Our first Treasury Secretary, Alexander Hamilton, understood that strong financial institutions and the ability to produce essential goods are vital to securing America's global position. This tradition gave rise to the Panama Canal, the greatest industrial achievement of its day, and a perfect representation of America's ability to think big. American economic statecraft also inspired the Marshall Plan, which rebuilt war-torn Europe, anchored European markets to the American system, and delivered decades of stability and growth.

Today, I want to highlight how DFC is building on that tradition of success.

First, DFC will directly challenge our adversaries in the most strategically contested sectors by financing transactions that diplomacy and private markets alone cannot deliver.

For example, we have the best technology in the world and are winning the race for AI, but the American AI stack cannot be built on networks compromised by our adversaries. Last month, we announced a monumental agreement for one of Kazakhstan's largest telecom networks to expand access to U.S.-aligned, trusted service providers. These deals are challenging for our partners, who face immense pressure and threats of economic retaliation when attempting to diversify ownership of their networks. That is why we are committed to helping others adopt this model, especially in the Western Hemisphere, where China's Digital Silk Road cannot be allowed to entrench its influence.

Second, DFC will prioritize large, capital-intensive projects that are vital to U.S. strategic interests and highly transformative for our partners. Our goal is to build holistic economic ecosystems anchored to U.S. capital markets and structured to create returns for American taxpayers and meaningful economic development for our allies.

DFC's $553-million-dollar loan to restore more than 800 miles of the Lobito Atlantic Railway exemplifies the $1.5 billion DFC has committed across Africa since my confirmation. This vital transportation corridor connects the mineral-rich Democratic Republic of Congo, through Zambia, to the port of Lobito in Angola. DFC financing will help establish a western-aligned source of critical minerals and bring an asset primarily financed by our adversaries under American stewardship. We will also strengthen local trade by reducing the costs of shipping minerals and domestic goods by as much as 30 percent.

Throughout the history of human civilization, industrialization has been the single greatest force for lifting people out of poverty. Industrialization cannot happen without reliable energy, a sector that is vital to America's interests as the world's leading producer and exporter of oil and natural gas. In June, DFC's Board approved $1.5 billion for energy infrastructure across South and Southeast Asia, ensuring U.S. LNG and American equipment help power the growing energy needs of a region long dominated by our adversaries.

Finally, we are mobilizing private capital through sophisticated financial structures that reduce risk for investors and create enduring American influence in critical sectors and regions.

That approach underpins our $600 million contribution to the $1.8 billion Critical Minerals Consortium with Orion Resource Partners. China currently controls 70 percent of critical minerals refining, including 90 percent of rare earths refining. DFC's Board recently approved an additional $900 million of financing to support Orion CMC's rapidly expanding pipeline of mining and minerals opportunities to help address China's strategic chokehold.

DFC's U.S.-Ukraine Reconstruction Investment Fund, or URIF, is another example. This first-of-its-kind, $150 million joint bilateral fund is mobilizing private investment in Ukraine's recovery, while creating opportunities for American businesses. I believe this model can extend far beyond Ukraine and provides a blueprint for DFC investment in other regions vital to America's long-term interests.

These are significant accomplishments, but they are only the first examples of what the focused, reauthorized DFC can deliver under President Trump's leadership. Our adversaries have made deliberate, decades-long investments to capture strategic supply chains. But their methods are extractive and create long term dependencies that limit choice and undermine resilience.

Our partners want to work with us because our model is better. Our system is the envy of the world. America's most transformative economic partnerships were built through the power of private investment, the discipline of capital markets, and the laser focus of finance. The Trump Administration's restoration of American economic statecraft will guarantee our country's success.

"Ending Supply Chain Dependency: Aligning Tools, Capital, and Partnerships"

House Committee on Foreign Affairs

July 15, 2026

Thomas R. Hardy
Deputy Director / Chief Operating Officer
(Performing the Duties of the Director)
U.S. Trade and Development Agency

Chairman Mast, Ranking Member Meeks, and distinguished Members, thank you for the invitation to testify before you today. I welcome this opportunity to share my views and experience on how the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) helps shape the economic foundations of American power by mobilizing investment, strengthening partnerships, and supporting U.S. leadership abroad.

Our mission is straightforward and impactful: USTDA serves as the U.S. government's first mover on critical infrastructure development in emerging markets, advancing shared strategic priorities with partner countries while creating opportunities to deploy trusted U.S. solutions. We are on the frontlines of the U.S. government's overseas efforts to secure critical supply chains by advancing America's leadership in strategically important critical minerals, digital, energy and transportation infrastructure projects.

These efforts also support the Administration's broader Pax Silica initiative, which seeks to build secure, resilient, and innovation-driven supply chains across the AI stack - from critical minerals and energy to advanced manufacturing, digital infrastructure, and artificial intelligence - in partnership with trusted countries.

USTDA helps secure critical supply chains by funding early-stage project preparation, including feasibility studies, pilot projects, and technical assistance, to accelerate infrastructure development and attract financing for implementation and procurement of U.S. goods and services. We also host initiatives that promote partnership-building with the United States.

Our focus on catalyzing capital means close programmatic alignment with fellow frontline agencies, including the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and partner agencies such as the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM).

U.S. companies carry out all USTDA-funded activities. This enhances U.S. competitiveness for critical infrastructure projects overseas and strengthens America's industrial base, because U.S. companies have a better chance of competing and winning overseas deals when their U.S. industry counterparts have defined a project's technical requirements.

USTDA's program is exceptionally effective. The Agency's activities completed between 2013-2022 have generated, on average, $226 in U.S. exports for every Congressionally appropriated dollar. The Agency utilizes its 30-plus years of specialized experience and unique toolkit to generate results for the American taxpayer.

<u>Critical Supply Chains</u>

USTDA has a growing portfolio of supply chain activities to help secure America's trade routes and expand our access to rare earth elements and other critical minerals.

The Agency is actively working with its U.S. industry and interagency partners to reduce China's dominance over critical mineral supply chains by supporting infrastructure development and building global partnerships that channel raw and processed materials to the United States.

One of the most immediate challenges in accessing overseas critical minerals is determining where to begin. To address this, USTDA developed a customized matrix that evaluates potential partner countries based on legal, regulatory, and diplomatic considerations. The matrix prioritizes countries with significant reserves of minerals of interest to the United States and relatively fewer barriers to investment.

USTDA's project development strategy focuses on supporting responsible mining projects across their full lifecycle in high-priority markets. These efforts include greenfield development, mine expansion and reopening, as well as mineral refining and processing.

Our project preparation toolkit is comprehensive, designed to help unlock the financing needed to bring rare earth elements and other critical minerals to market. It includes resource mapping, drilling, resource confirmation, front-end engineering design, pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, pilot projects, and transaction support, including legal, financial, and offtake assistance.

USTDA takes a comprehensive approach to expanding access to critical minerals and rare earth elements. In addition to supporting mining projects, we invest in essential enabling infrastructure, including power generation and transmission, rail, and ports, that facilitate the movement of resources from extraction sites to the U.S. market.

USTDA maintains high standards for project selection and has declined opportunities that do not meet the quality benchmarks associated with U.S. economic engagement overseas. We do not support entities with poor records on labor rights, safety, or environmental practices. We also avoid projects likely to divert critical minerals to strategic competitors.

The following are just a few examples to illustrate how USTDA's toolkit is being applied across the mining lifecycle to strengthen U.S. critical minerals supply chains.

In Mozambique, USTDA is funding a pre-feasibility study for Monte Muambe Mining Ltda, to de-risk the development of a critical mineral mining and processing facility. The study will evaluate optimal extraction and processing methods and define the technical and financial pathways needed to attract full-scale investment. The project is expected to support opportunities for U.S. companies to provide equipment and expertise while supplying rare earth materials to the U.S. market.

In Zambia, USTDA has awarded funding to Metalex Africa Zambia Limited, a subsidiary of Texas-based Metalex Commodities Inc., to support a feasibility study for expanding a facility that currently extracts and processes copper and cobalt. By leveraging U.S. technology and expertise, this project is intended to promote responsible resource development while enhancing our access to Zambia's significant critical mineral reserves.

In Indonesia, USTDA is supporting the deployment of emerging U.S. technology to increase lithium recovery from geothermal energy operations. Through a USTDA-funded pilot project – a unique tool within the U.S. government – California-based Lilac Solutions, Inc. will demonstrate its technology at facilities owned by PT Geo Dipa Energi. This initiative is expected to establish Indonesia's first lithium extraction facility from geothermal brine, creating a new, reliable supply source while supporting the country's energy sector.

In the Philippines, USTDA is helping create an alternative to critical mineral processing in China in a trusted partner. The Agency is funding a feasibility study for a nickel and cobalt processing facility for Eramen Minerals Inc., which would produce approximately 20,000 metric tons of refined nickel and cobalt annually for battery precursor materials. The study will also help identify potential U.S. buyers to support the project.

These projects all share several key characteristics. USTDA coordinated its support with DFC and EXIM, to ensure that our studies address each agency's lending criteria and best position these projects to apply for support from these U.S. government financing partners. At the same time, these projects will be well positioned to secure financing from trusted international financial institutions.

As with all USTDA-funded activities, these studies are carried out by U.S. industry, leveraging American innovation to boost global competitiveness, expand export opportunities, and support U.S. jobs. Of utmost significance, these projects enhance U.S. national security by strengthening access to rare earth elements and other critical minerals, and they are all anchored by reputable overseas partners who share our values.

Economic Corridors

Around the world, USTDA is supporting the development of strategic economic corridors that strengthen U.S. supply chain resilience, expand market access for U.S. companies, and provide trusted alternatives to infrastructure and logistics networks backed by America's geopolitical competitors.

In the Western Hemisphere, USTDA is helping provide the United States with an alternative to the Panama Canal while denying China a foothold in a critical Central American transportation corridor. USTDA is funding a feasibility study to help catalyze investment to relieve existing port bottlenecks on Honduras's Atlantic and Caribbean coasts and develop new rail infrastructure, the first steps in creating an Interoceanic Logistics Corridor that would enhance critical supply chains, strengthen U.S. trade routes and establish American rail standards throughout the country.

In sub-Saharan Africa, USTDA is playing a leading role in advancing priority infrastructure projects to build out the Lobito Corridor, with a robust portfolio of activities that are designed to help unlock several billion dollars in financing and connect mineral-rich areas of Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia to the Atlantic coast through Angola. Recent examples include studies to develop a reliable energy source for mining operations in Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a rare earths refinery in Angola, and a copper and cobalt refinery in the DRC.

In the Philippines, USTDA is funding technical assistance for the Philippines' Department of Transportation to support the development of a proposed 132-mile freight rail line in Luzon, which could transport critical minerals to the strategic Subic Bay port. The railway is envisioned to be the backbone of the Luzon Economic Corridor, which has the potential to reshape and strengthen the resilience of Indo-Pacific supply chains while driving economic transformation in the Philippines.

The corridor also complements broader Pax Silica efforts to develop trusted industrial ecosystems and Economic Security Zones that attract private investment and diversify critical supply chains away from strategic competitors.

Digital Infrastructure and Artificial Intelligence

Similar in strategic importance to critical supply chains, American leadership in artificial intelligence (AI) is a priority for our national security, global competitiveness and economic growth. USTDA is focused on programming activities that facilitate the export, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, of U.S. AI and the underlying digital infrastructure that enables its secure deployment. Our goal is to help ensure America's technological dominance while reducing global reliance on alternatives from its adversaries.

America's partner countries require foundational infrastructure to support digital services including AI. The integrity and security of these services require this infrastructure to be built using trusted technologies from the United States.

In the Indo-Pacific, USTDA's work demonstrates how the United States can use economic statecraft, in coordination with its interagency partners and regional allies, to reduce reliance on high-risk Chinese technology and promote emerging U.S. technologies. Working with fellow Quad members Australia, India, and Japan, USTDA provided technical assistance to help Palau replace its Chinese-built mobile network with a secure nationwide 4G/5G system financed by the Quad governments. The project incorporates trusted U.S. technology sourced from companies in California, Massachusetts, and Texas.

As the first commercial Open RAN deployment in the Pacific Islands, the project provides a model for other countries seeking to "rip and replace" untrusted telecommunications equipment with secure, interoperable alternatives. USTDA's work demonstrates how coordinated action with allies can strengthen trusted supply chains, expand opportunities for U.S. industry, and advance a free and open Indo-Pacific.

USTDA is also coordinating with MCC to prepare strategic digital infrastructure investments for its funding consideration. These include an Open RAN infrastructure connectivity project for rural villages across Indonesia and a national government data center project in Tonga that would replace an outdated supplied system from China with one sourced with trusted technology from U.S. vendors.

In South America, USTDA approved technical assistance for the development of a hyperscale data center and fiber optic network in Colombia to support the export of trusted American AI infrastructure and cloud technologies. The project is expected to create opportunities for U.S. cloud service providers while offering a high-quality alternative to Huawei's expanding digital infrastructure presence in the region. By promoting secure, trusted, and interoperable digital ecosystems, the project will advance U.S. economic and strategic interests while expanding American technology leadership.

USTDA is building on this approach by helping allies deploy full-stack American AI solutions as alternatives to Chinese digital platforms.

These activities advance Pax Silica's objective of promoting trusted AI ecosystems by pairing secure infrastructure with trusted U.S. technologies, standards, and commercial partnerships.

In the Middle East and North Africa, USTDA is advancing the adoption of trusted American AI technologies by supporting the development of AI regulatory frameworks aligned with U.S. standards and best practices. Through a series of business forums in Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco, USTDA will connect U.S. AI and digital infrastructure companies with regional policymakers and industry leaders, promote secure and interoperable approaches to AI governance, counter alternatives to competing digital models, and identify opportunities to expand U.S. technology exports across the region.

In Thailand, USTDA is supporting a pilot project that will deploy AI technology developed by a Washington State startup, alongside U.S. cloud technologies, for aCommerce, a leading regional e-commerce platform serving ASEAN markets. The project helps aCommerce compete against Chinese giants like Alibaba while demonstrating that American technology offers a secure, competitive alternative to China's digital ecosystem.

Energy

Around the world, USTDA collaborates with like-minded partners to develop projects that offer trusted American alternatives. The Agency leverages its project preparation tools to strengthen America's industrial base and expand U.S. leadership in highly strategic sectors including energy, helping American companies compete against state-backed rivals from China and Russia while opening new markets for U.S. exports.

The Agency plays a catalytic role in reinvigorating America's nuclear industrial base by helping U.S. companies compete and win against heavily subsidized Russian and Chinese state-backed competitors in partner countries. USTDA-supported project preparation in Romania helped position U.S. small modular reactor (SMR) technology for selection in Europe's first SMR power plant and mobilized financing, including support from EXIM for pre-project services. In Poland, USTDA assistance helped lay the groundwork for the selection of American technology for the country's first nuclear power plant, a project backed by the Polish government's intent to commit approximately $15 billion.

Both EXIM and DFC have expressed interest in financing these projects, reflecting the momentum generated by USTDA's early project preparation. By positioning U.S. nuclear technology for consideration in these strategic markets, USTDA demonstrated that innovative American solutions can compete successfully against heavily subsidized Russian and Chinese alternatives.

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is another strategic sector where USTDA is using economic statecraft to advance U.S. energy leadership and counter geopolitical competitors. For more than three decades, the Agency has supported overseas LNG infrastructure projects that expand markets for American gas while reducing partners' dependence on unreliable suppliers. Building on that record, USTDA recently launched the U.S. Global Gas Initiative (GGI) with American industry to accelerate LNG infrastructure development and reinforce the United States as the partner of choice for secure, long-term energy supply.

Here are a few examples that USTDA intends to replicate under the GGI.

In 2007, Lithuania recognized the strategic risk of relying on Russian gas and turned to USTDA to evaluate options for diversifying its energy supply. USTDA funded a feasibility study in 2008 that laid the groundwork for the Klaipėda LNG import terminal, which entered service in 2014. Because Lithuania acted early, it had secure alternatives when they mattered most. Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Lithuania ended its dependence on Russian gas. Today, U.S. LNG from the Gulf Coast flows through Klaipėda, strengthening energy security across the Baltics and Poland while helping supply Ukraine through regional interconnections.

In 2020, USTDA funded the initial feasibility study for Sierra Leone's first gas-fired power project. Four years later, DFC committed $412 million of financing and insurance to the project, which will add more than 100 megawatts of generating capacity in a country where most households still lack access to electricity. This investment builds on the MCC's Compact with Sierra Leone, which is modernizing the country's electricity grid to support reliable power from diverse sources, including new natural gas and LNG projects.

USTDA has a unique capability to contribute to whole-of-government efforts that advance top U.S. foreign and national security priorities including the implementation of Pax Silica through project preparation that mobilizes investment, strengthens trusted supply chains, and expands opportunities for American industry. We have longstanding partnerships and coordinate our programming with the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Energy, and State, as well as agencies such as DFC, EXIM, and MCC. USTDA also collaborates with the White House National Energy Dominance Council and the U.S. Department of War, including its Hawaii-based United States Indo-Pacific Command and the Office of Strategic Capital. Congress also plays a vital role, and we welcome efforts to strengthen our coordinated U.S. approach to secure critical supply chains, strengthen America's industrial base, and advance leadership in strategically important sectors.

Thank you.

**Testimony of Daniel B. Petrie**
**Acting Chief of Staff, Millennium Challenge Corporation**
**House Committee on Foreign Affairs**
**July 15, 2026 at 10:00 am**
**"Ending Supply Chain Dependency: Aligning Tools, Capital, and Partnerships"**

Chairman Mast, Ranking Member Meeks, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me to testify. Since its founding in 2004, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has enjoyed strong bipartisan backing, and we deeply value your support as we unlock growth and drive returns for the American people.

For more than two decades, MCC has delivered results through large, time-limited compacts that drive economic growth and reduce poverty while opening new markets, boosting trade, and creating opportunities for American businesses. MCC works only with countries that meet rigorous eligibility criteria and align with the economic and national security interests of the United States, ensuring accountability and a strong return on investment for the American people. By combining strategic infrastructure and by advancing policy reforms to address systemic constraints to economic growth, MCC creates new markets for U.S. exporters, builds preferences for U.S. standards and services, and demonstrates that America is the partner of choice.

## Unlocking Economic Growth

MCC's timebound programs are designed to help countries achieve strong economic growth, build necessary infrastructure, and align policy and institutions to catalyze private sector investment. In doing so, MCC helps decrease countries' future dependence on assistance. These programs are delivering on the Administration's America First priorities by generating returns for the American economy through three main channels: creating American private sector opportunities, strengthening American exports, and securing critical American supply chains.

MCC is expanding opportunities for U.S. business by engaging firms earlier to understand barriers to investment and by creating the conditions that enable them to compete and grow. To support exports, MCC is addressing key regulatory barriers to American competitiveness in emerging markets. Meanwhile, MCC is helping to secure greater access to raw materials key to domestic manufacturing, including critical minerals, while also helping to support U.S.-sourced infrastructure projects and policy reforms that enhance U.S. economic and national security interests.

Against this backdrop, 2026 has been a productive year for MCC.

In December 2025, MCC's Board of Directors expanded MCC's presence in the Western Hemisphere, selecting Bolivia and Guatemala to develop threshold programs and Ecuador to develop a compact. Aligned with the National Security Strategy, these programs will be essential to increase investment in strategic sectors and promote prosperity and security in countries close to home.

In March, MCC completed a $462 million water security compact in Mongolia ($350 million from MCC and $112 million from the Government of Mongolia) that will increase the water supply in Ulaanbaatar by up to 80 percent, critical in a capital that has tripled in size in recent decades. The compact built a large wastewater recycling plant to service industry as well as an advanced water purification plant, leveraging leading technology manufactured in Florida. Beyond construction, Mongolia passed key policy reforms such as increasing water tariffs, to ensure the sustainability of the sector and protect MCC's investment.

In June, MCC's Board approved a threshold program for the Philippines. The $60 million energy security program focuses on lowering barriers to private investment in the energy sector, opening opportunities for U.S. technology in smart grids and generation, and professionalizing the management of public utilities. Additionally, the program includes funding to facilitate collaboration with the U.S. International Development Finance Cooperation (DFC) and strengthens the foundation for other U.S. government and private sector initiatives in the Philippines, including the U.S.-backed Luzon Economic Corridor.

Finally, MCC continues to innovate as it deploys infrastructure and policy reforms. For example, the Senegal Energy Compact, which was signed during President Trump's first Administration, installed the first-ever undersea high-voltage transmission cable in West Africa while unlocking private sector investment. The compact is modernizing the electricity grid, expanding access, and diversifying energy sources to leverage the country's growing oil and gas sector. In doing so, MCC is addressing key barriers cited by over 50 American firms operating in Senegal, including DFC-backed Contour Global as well as a multibillion Kosmos Energy LNG project.

**Aligning Critical Supply Chains Priorities**

Beyond program milestones, MCC is prioritizing key sectors, including those that strengthen U.S. supply chains critical for domestic manufacturing and diminish the strategic leverage of adversaries. By reducing barriers to U.S. business investment in sectors overseas that are strategic to U.S. economic and national security goals, creating new markets for American goods and services, and promoting pro-growth reforms, MCC makes America more prosperous.

More than $1.3 billion of MCC's current portfolio directly and indirectly contribute to U.S. critical minerals objectives, primarily through infrastructure in the energy, land, transportation, and port sectors that enable mineral extraction, processing, and exports in countries with significant reserves. By pairing infrastructure investments with policy and regulatory reforms in challenging operating environments, MCC strengthens U.S.-linked value chains, improves access to strategically important minerals, and advances U.S. national security and economic interests.

For example, in Mozambique, MCC's compact is helping strengthen critical mineral supply chains linked to U.S. manufacturing; the planned road investments along the Nacala Corridor will improve graphite transport, supporting downstream battery processing in Louisiana. In Zambia, key compact road segments will facilitate the shipment of critical minerals by U.S. mining companies to the United States and other western markets and strengthen the U.S.-backed Lobito Corridor. A series of mining reforms such as modernizing Zambia's land cadastre, strengthening governance of its Minerals Resource Commission, and improving access to geophysical and geological data will create confidence for investors.

MCC is uniquely able to deliver large-scale infrastructure to key partners. By funding high-quality road and port infrastructure and energy sector investments—coupled with policy reforms and know-how that assure their maximum effect—MCC provides a transparent alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative, which often leaves countries burdened with unsustainable debt and low-quality infrastructure. MCC is currently working with seven country partners in the Asia-Pacific region, including a compact program with Fiji and threshold programs with the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Kiribati. Amid growing Chinese interest in the Pacific islands, MCC's partnerships strengthen relations with these island nations and represent a substantial U.S. government presence in these countries. In an era of intensifying competition, MCC programs are strategic assets that diminish the leverage of U.S. adversaries by providing transparent, sustainable grant funding that allows partner countries to strengthen their economies without becoming dependent on rivals.

In sum, MCC has a 22-year track record of effectively building infrastructure and pursuing reforms in countries of strategic importance to the United States, generating opportunities both here at home and abroad. With a time-limited and transparent approach, MCC promotes self-reliance and creates the conditions necessary to catalyze private-sector-led economic growth.