

Senate Agriculture

Nominees Lindberg & Westhill

29 April 2025

Overview: Two nominees were considered by the Senate Agriculture Committee- [Luke Lindberg](#) for the Undersecretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs and [Devon Westhill](#) for to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Civil Rights. The committee questioned them extensively. They asked Lindberg for commitments to expand markets for American farmers. Westhill was questioned on upholding civil rights for minority and underserved farmers, to which he committed to. There was no mention of American Indian or Alaskan Native producers.

Lindberg highlighted his previous roles, including Chief of Staff at the Export-Import Bank of the United States, where he led initiatives on competition with China, LNG exports, and the Abraham Accords. He also served as President and CEO of South Dakota Trade, leading trade missions and generating significant sales for local farmers.

Lindberg emphasized his commitment to advocating for American farmers and ranchers, addressing the agricultural trade deficit, and ensuring fair trade deals. He criticized current trade practices and highlighted the need for an "America First" trade agenda. Lindberg concluded by asking for the Committee's support and partnership in his nomination.

Westhill emphasized his dedication to public service, having served in the Navy, the Department of Labor, and previously in the same office at USDA.

He stressed the importance of civil rights protection, equal opportunity, and justice, drawing on his personal experiences growing up in the South. Westhill outlined his achievements during his previous tenure, such as improving complaint investigation timeliness and developing new civil rights policies. He committed to continuing this work with integrity if confirmed, noting the significance of having a Senate-confirmed leader in the office for the first time since the Obama administration. Westhill concluded by expressing his honor and readiness to answer questions.