UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Ahmed Jama, Secretary of Commerce · Cabinet level officer · Reports to the President of the United States

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Worldview

I see a society in which economic power equals national security. I am a pragmatic conservative who supports the free market but will utilize government authority if competitors such as China cheat on trade or weaponize supply networks. My primary DIME tool is economic (tariffs, export controls, and investment screening), which is supported by diplomacy via trade missions abroad. My dream world would see American factories leading in chips and AI, with allies sharing secure supply chains. I plan to accomplish this by bringing manufacturing back to the United States and defending American technology. My legacy is a stronger, more self-sufficient American economy.

Responsibilities, Duties, and Process

Scope and expectations: I lead U.S. policy on trade, export controls, industry, and technology standards, with a global reach. I am expected to grow U.S. jobs and exports and protect critical technology.

Powers: Export controls through the Bureau of Industry and Security, Section 232 tariff investigations, CHIPS Act grants, a seat on CFIUS, and agencies including Census, NOAA, and NIST.

Barriers: Congress controls my budget, courts can block tariffs, and USTR, State, and Treasury share the trade field.

Day to day: I brief the President, meet CEOs and foreign trade ministers, testify to Congress, and review export licenses.

Workflow: My agencies gather data and draft options -> the NSC and interagency process decide -> we publish rules, tariffs, or grants -> we track trade data and public comments and adjust.

Legacy: A faster, data driven department that leaves the next generation a secure industrial base.

Top Issues for My Office

- **Semiconductors:** Ideal: the most advanced chips are made in America. How: CHIPS Act grants for new factories and workforce training.
- **Critical minerals:** Ideal: no rival controls the minerals our industry needs. How: expand the stockpile, fund U.S. processing, and sign deals with allies like Australia and Canada.
- **Export controls:** Ideal: adversaries cannot get advanced AI chips for their militaries. How: update BIS rules and coordinate with the Netherlands, Japan, and South Korea.
- **Fair trade:** Ideal: U.S. exporters compete on a level playing field. How: target tariffs at real threats and trade tariff relief for open markets.
- **AI standards:** Ideal: American standards set the global rules for safe AI. How: have NIST lead AI testing standards and share them with partners.