

Liz Schrayner

But I'm here to thank you, not just from me, but I want to thank you from a woman that I met, in frankly, the most unusual place. And I don't know if any of you have traveled to Sub-Saharan Africa, to Tanzania, any of you been there? I know Mike Gerson has. A few of you have. Well if you've been to rural Sub-Saharan Africa, you have to take, where I went, a little small plane, which I don't love and you drive in a very small jeep in a bumpy road and then you climb all through this a very small field. As I arrive to this small field I was greeted by a group of women that were singing to greet me. And out from this group a woman popped up and said, "My name is Veronica and I want to be on the Internet!" So I did what all good Westerners do, I pulled out my smart phone and I hit play and she started to tell me her tale and her tale went like this; she told me that she could barely make ends meet. She told me that until America showed up—America showed up, in the form of USAID in a program known as Feed the Future. This program showed up and she said she was given what her husband called Magic Beans. They were actually drought resistant seeds. These beans he did not believe would do anything so he wanted to throw them out. So they divided this little plot of land and on his side, his land and the crops floundered, on her side, they flourished. What she told me, is because of this America, USAID Feed the Future Program, she now was able to buy a used truck. She is able to educate all 11 of her grandchildren, and she is teaching all that she had learned to 15 other women in her village. And the reason she wanted me to tape her so she could be on the Internet is so she could thank America, not for giving her a handout, but for giving her a hand up. And when she told me this tale, I went back and took a look. Tanzania is a country, where over the last few years, our trade has grown by 500%. Those kids in the film, those are our future markets they were talking about. I know that you here in Iowa understand as Bob said that we live in an interconnected world. We talk about the horrors of the last week, in Paris, in Mali, and in so many other places. We saw last year what happens when Ebola and infectious diseases get out of hand. What happens overseas impacts us here at home and if we are going to build a better and a safer world, our mission as an organization, we need strategic partnerships. So you in this room get it and I want to share with you, that you're not alone. I travel all over the country to programs like these with other Senators and Congressmen and we share these conversations and our events are bigger and larger than I've ever seen before. So let me just tell you a minute about who we are that you are part of launching today, our Iowa effort. The USGLC, years

ago, the Washington Post called us a Strange Bedfellow Coalition. And we got that name because in Washington, as you know, not everybody talks to each other as much as they should. But we are a coalition of over 400 businesses and NGOs. Everything from Save the Children to Starbucks, from Walmart to World Vision, we represent and are running across the country, from New Hampshire to North Dakota, from Texas to Tennessee. We have an Advisory Council, it's chaired by General Colin Powell and it has every living former Secretary of State from Henry Kissinger to Condi Rice, and so many others. We are so proud when all of the veterans stood up that we have a growing voice in the military community. 160 retired three and four star generals, General Christman among them. And 30,000 Veterans for Smart Power among them. What brings us all together is the conversation we will have today. That America needs to lead in this world and to be a leader we need to invest smartly and effectively in development and diplomacy alongside defense. In Washington, that's a little 1% of the Federal Budget, a lot of people call it the Foreign Aid Budget, but it's much more than that; it's the State Department, it's USAID [sic], it's our Peace Corps, it's the diplomats that are out there fighting for democracy in places like Ukraine, it's the healthcare workers that were fighting off the spread of Ebola, it's the programs that create opening markets for our goods and services, it's the programs that help protect our strategic partners and allies like Israel. Why do we do it? Because for two key reasons; we believe it's the right thing to do, just like Ronald Reagan said that we're that shiny city on the hill, but it's also the smart thing to do for our national security and our economic interests. So we are so pleased to be launching our effort here in Iowa. I am thrilled to have our partners here that helped us put this together, they are listed in the program and I thank each one of you. I also thank our State Iowa Advisory Committee, it's chaired as Bob said, by Bob Myers himself. Senator Harkin, and former Congressman Boswell and Latham who unfortunately couldn't be here today but I know are so excited about our work here with all of you. And lastly, part of us being here is to also launch a special effort because we're in Iowa. Every four years, we at the USGLC also have an effort around the presidential campaigns, it's called Impact 2016 this year and our effort is a nonpartisan presidential initiative to reach out to the presidential campaigns and their teams with a simple goal, to encourage them, just like we're talking, to embrace the importance of America's global leadership. To make sure that they understand, as part of our national security, that foreign assistance, development, and diplomacy, alongside a strong defense are critical tools. To educate them that these programs work. From educating women and girls, to preventing millions of children from dying of preventable diseases to saving 8 million lives from HIV/AIDS. Today is one of a series of programs that show up in states like Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina, to name a few. We're thrilled

that you're part of this, and not only to be part of it, but to hear your voice and to be part of a discussion to urge the candidates and tell them that you care about these issues. You can join us today in the conversation on Twitter at #Impact2016 and be part of the conversation when the panel continues in just a few moments. To introduce the Governor and our key note address, I'd like to welcome Bob Myers back to the stage. Thank you and enjoy our program.

Bob Myers

Investing in America's global leadership starts right here at home, which is why I am honored to introduce one of Iowa's biggest champions who understands the critical importance of the issues we are talking about today, and who by the way, is a personal friend of the Premier of China. And as a former president of Des Moines University and one of the longest serving Governors in the country with an impressive record on jobs, reform, and prosperity, Governor Terry Brandstad is familiar and a welcome face to us Iowans. Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in extending a warm welcome to Governor Terry Brandstad.

Terry Brandstad

Thank you. Bob Myers, thank you for that very nice introduction. What a day, I got to pardon a couple of turkeys this morning and I get to have lunch with all of you today. And I want to personally thank Bob Myer [sic] for your outstanding leadership of our home base, Iowa Initiative, along with former Congressman Boswell, and they co-chair that effort and I'm proud to say in less than a year and a half we have been able to connect 1,700 veterans with quality jobs here in Iowa. It's a great bipartisan effort that's been going on and we're very excited about it and Bob, thank you for your leadership on that important effort. Speaking of veterans, I want to acknowledge and thank our Senator Joni Ernst for her service to our country and now her service to the State of Iowa as the United States Senator. We in Iowa are thrilled that the first female combat veteran to serve in the United States Senate is also the first female to serve in Congress from our state, Joni Ernst. She and my Lieutenant Governor, Kim Reynolds are both personal friends. They were both county officials in Southwest Iowa. In fact, Kim was corresponding with Joni when she was leading the troops in Iraq, encouraging her to come back and run for office in Montgomery County, Iowa, and she did and as you know kinda the rest is history. She went from there to the State Senate and now to the United States Senate. Today's forum is a wonderful opportunity to sit down and discuss how America's leadership matters to us here in the heartland of America. We in Iowa recognize that many of the world's consumers live far outside the United States and that we have to be engaged. If we're going to be able to market our abundant agriculture products and outstanding quality agriculture and manufactured goods. We also know that Iowa is a leading exporter of food, goods, and services around the world. In fact, last year the state of Iowa set a record of 5.1

billion dollars in exports so there is no doubt that Iowa is truly benefiting and prospering from international trade. Incidentally our unemployment rate just dropped to 3.5%, the lowest in 10 years. We are very excited about that. But in order for us to continue to grow and sell our products internationally, America's strategic investments in diplomacy and development help build new open markets for Iowa and for America. In an increasingly interconnected world we need strategic investments in our development and diplomacy, along with a strong military to maintain our leadership role in the world. Fortunately we've joined here today, we've been joined by several experts who will continue to explore these important issues and more in what's sure to be an insightful discussion that you don't want to miss and I am pleased to see we have such a distinguished audience here to participate in this very important and strategic events. One of those experts is our keynote speaker. It is a great privilege and honor for me to introduce someone that I admire and respect a great deal, Senator Joni Ernst, our junior senator from Iowa who has quickly established herself as a rising star and a respected voice on foreign policy and national security. As I said, she is the first combat veteran elected to the United States Senate, Senator Ernst has served a combined 21 years in the Army reserves and the Iowa Army National Guard. Her distinguished military career has shaped her strong commitment to U.S. Global Leadership. Senator Ernst we are so grateful for your service to our country and we are so lucky to have your expertise and knowledge as our Senator from Iowa. Ladies and Gentlemen please welcome our great new United States Senator, Jodi Ernst.

Jodi Ernst

Thank you, thank you, oh please. Thank you everyone so much. It is truly an honor to be here today with so many distinguished visitors to the great state of Iowa. As well as all of our Iowa natives who are here that understand how important our role in global leadership is. So I am going to share with you just a little story about how it is I came to be in the United State military. Some of you have have heard this story before, but it really ties in I think quite well with what we are going to discuss today. Many of you know that I grew up on a very small farm in Southwest Iowa and I really loved that experience. Again, it was a very very small farm and so we didn't have a whole lot of, much of anything to be honest, but we did learn about hard work and dedication. Well growing up on that small farm gave me a great background in agriculture and so when I went off to Iowa State University I had a great opportunity to participate in an agricultural exchange to Ukraine that was between my freshman and sophomore year of college. And at that time it was 1989, the Ukraine was still part of the former Soviet Union. So we embarked on this trip, there were 18 Iowans who arrived in Ukraine and each of us went to live with a family on a collective farm, a little southeast of Kiev and on that farm with those families we learned an awful lot about what it was like to live in a

country like the Soviet Union. The family that I stayed with had no running water, they didn't have a refrigerator, they didn't have a telephone, they didn't have a car, they shared one bicycle amongst all of the different family members and they were still farming with horses and wagons. So when all of us Iowa students got together with our families, we went out to the collective farm during the day to work in the fields, we would come back together in the evening and it was really important to get together with the community because that was the point of the exchange was to come together and talk through agriculture, at least that's the point of the exchange. But what we did when we got together in the evening was talk about things other than agriculture. The Ukrainian families when we got together, they really wanted to know, bottom line, what was it like to be an American. What was it like to have the same types of freedoms that would allow us to get in our own car and drive anywhere we wanted without asking somebody else's permission. What was it like to pick up a telephone and call a family member in another community or another state without having to go to the collective manager and ask permission and explain why you wanted to use the phone and who you were going to call and how long you were going to be on the phone with them. They simply wanted to know what it was like to live in our great republic. That made such a lasting impression on me that I returned home and decided that once I started my classes again at Iowa State University that I would give back to my nation because of the great values, the great freedoms that we have here in the United States of America. And I decided that the only way that I can truly give back is to give my service because I really didn't have a whole lot of anything else to give. But my service it was, so I joined Army ROTC, went off and graduated, became an officer in the Army Reserves and then moved on ahead throughout my career which has landed me here in Iowa, in the Iowa Army National Guard. So I am very proud of my service, but I'm also proud of what led me to that service and I would say that all of us are truly great Americans and we believe in our ideals, our values but we really needed to understand what we can give to the rest of the world. We really need that stability and otherwise in these other countries. They need to know they have opportunity as well. So at a relatively young age these experiences led me to understand of the importance of American leadership both at home and abroad. With this American leadership we also understand what it takes to project that to the rest of the world and we do that through various funding mechanisms, support for our defense, our state aid, foreign aid, many different operations accounts, and effective oversight. All of these things ensure that our programs are meeting their intent. And our country can help solve any problem or challenge that exists on the global front. Since I've arrived in the Senate I've been a strong supporter of our partners who are supporting displaced persons from Iraq and Syria, particularly the Kurdistan regional

government in Iraq who are providing security and assistance for nearly 1.6 million displaced persons despite their limited means of doing so. According to the UN, the number of refugees fleeing Syria will likely grow beyond 4 million people and I believe we must continue to assist these nations who are taking on these displaced persons. So far our nation has provided over 4 billion dollars to those who have been displaced due to the Syrian conflict. As the numbers of refugees continues to grow, the United States must ensure it is providing help for those in need with conjunction with the efforts of our international community. Ultimately I believe in order to end the refugee crisis in the heart of the Middle East; we must solve it at its root problem, by destroying ISIS and ending the dictatorship of Bashar Al Assad. With the help of our allies in the region and the international community, American leadership is vital to achieving this goal. There is no substitute and there is no alternative. However it is difficult to take the necessary steps to accomplish these goals by forcing our military who has a vital role in humanitarian assistance and response efforts to operate under a budget uncertainty, which is what we are asking them to do now. In order to fully realize the effects of our state and foreign aid programs, it is vital that we pair this with adequate funding for our diplomatic and developmental programs with adequate funding of our defense budget. To that end, Congress must end sequestration, which is not only harmful to our military, but to our collective whole of government response, to provide for those in need and to provide a response to ensure that those in need can eventually provide for themselves through our assistance efforts. So folks we have a long ways to go, but I truly enjoy the effort that you are putting forth today. I appreciate the efforts of all of those on our board and those here in Iowa who have stepped up to the plate to make sure that we do maintain our global security in such an uncertain time. So God bless you all for being here, I look forward to our discussion. Thank you.

David Brody

We all know why Senator Ernst is a global leader, an American global leader here in this country. Thank you so much for your remarks, that was wonderful. And we are really going to have a discussion here about this next president, whoever he or she may be is going to be facing a lot of crisis around the world. Obviously Syria, there's Russia, there's ISIS everywhere. And so, look I don't have any answers, but the good news is that I have folks around me that do and so let me introduce them to you if I may. Paul Schickler, to my left here, is the president of DuPont Pioneer, the advanced genetics business of DuPont. Since 2007 Mr. Schickler has expanded Pioneer's global business by focusing on innovation, to improve productivity, and profitability in more than 90 countries around the world. He's originally from Iowa; Mr. Schickler sits on the board of several Iowa based organizations and is a strong supporter of the World Food Prize Foundation. And we have the General. General Dan

Christman, served on the joint Chiefs of Staff as an advisor to Secretary of State Warren Christopher and he has also represented the United States on NATO's military committee, and today General Christman advises the President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on national security and international issues affecting the business community. Let's welcome our panel, shall we? If you want to ask a question, this is the way it's going to work is we are going to have about 20 to 25 minutes up here, then to your questions. There will be microphones around the room so if you have a question raise your hand and we'll get to you. If you're listening or watching online, I guess you're listening and watching, you can go to USGLC or tweet your question to @USGLC, we are live streaming this event, my mom said to sit up straight so I'm going to do that because she's watching. Alright, General Christman, let me start with you real quick. Look you're one of 160, either retired generals or active generals that have talked about development or diplomacy being crucial in this fight, if you will, that we are talking about here. Let me read you a quote if I could, this is from General Mattis who said this, "If you don't fund the State Department fully, then I need to buy more ammunition." Is what he said. And I am wondering about the development and diplomacy aspect of all of this. Is he right? What's going on here specifically as it relates to how the two work hand in hand; military and diplomacy and development?

Dan Christman

Well thanks very much first of all for the kind remarks and the honor to be in this audience here this afternoon. It is a great great honor to be here back in Iowa. But let me address the Mattis comments. Really with a reference to what Senator Ernst mentioned on her first visit to Ukraine, there is an enormous interest understandably on ISIS on what it's doing in Western Europe and France and Belgium in particular, but there's another, as we would say in military, feda, forward edge of the battle area and that's Eastern Europe. As a result of what's happened, as a result of ISIS's behavior, the issue in Ukraine today has really gone off the screen, but what was fascinating about Senator Ernst's discussion when she was a student and went to Ukraine when it was part of the former Soviet Union was how a discussion about farming, about interaction with Ukrainian citizens, I would say is as important as the kind of military position that we have in Western Europe. There is a great debate in the Pentagon now, do we need to make the footprint in Western Europe heavier, reinsert tanks, reinsert arm and combat vehicles, artillery and so on? Perhaps yes, but I'd argue, as a complimentary move, we also need to do what a young Joni Ernst did in 1989, bring it forward to 2015 and that's to advance the dialogue which is done by diplomats, advance the economic opportunity, which is done by development institutions so that the thousands, I would argue even millions of Ukrainians that want an alternative to authoritarian capitalism, the type they see with Vladimir Putin have a vision, have an alternative to that that's fostered by development and

diplomats. I was really struck with your comments on Ukraine given the importance of it, of that particular area of our national security discussion tablet about how to leverage what you just said for today's reality in the global scene.

David Brody

You know, Senator Ernst, you have a Washington perspective now, but you've been there, with Lieutenant in Kuwait obviously. What do you take away from that experience as it relates to the role of the state department, the role of USAID as part of this engagement that we need to have all around the world?

Joni Ernst

Well I think it's an important experience to have and I am so grateful to have had that opportunity to serve really where the rubber really meets the road and with that I've been able to take away a number of really important points and really at the forefront of that is that you can't have successful military operations without also engaging other lines of effort; diplomacy, information operations, economic operations, they all need to work in conjunction with each other in order for the other one to be successful, so as we apply it towards ISIS right now, of course we do need military action which would destroy ISIS, but we also have to have partners such as USAID, we have to have the State Department, we have to have our nongovernmental organizations all running in parallel with those military efforts to make sure we are stabilizing those communities, we're stabilizing those governments and providing opportunity for those countries. If there is no opportunity for those countries we will see a never ending cycle of violence.

David Brody

Paul, let me ask you a little bit about the business aspect of all of this, which you're very familiar with obviously. So much is Sub-Saharan Africa where there's a lot of these growing, some of the fastest economies are growing, if not half, if not more. What does it mean exactly, from a business perspective to make sure that you tie in the business aspect of all this, especially folks here in Iowa for development and diplomacy, how does this work? Can you explain how business works into the equation?

Paul Schickler

Well first of all I think it is important to understand, you know what the fundamental purpose of our business is, that is to improve the productivity of farmers. We certainly do that here in Iowa, we've been doing that for 90 years and across all the United States, that's what we want to do. But at the same time, we have a global environment to be a part of. The opportunity in the United States is wonderful to improve productivity but it is also a tremendous opportunity and challenge everywhere in the world. I think it was the video where the children were making their comments, describing some of the challenges around the world. So let me add some numbers to those challenges the children spoke to. Everybody knows we are going to have 9 billion people on the

planet over the next 30 or 40 years. That's a tremendous challenge by itself. 2 billion more than we have today. But what you may not realize, is that in the next five years, we are going to have one billion people move from lower class into middle class, and that is in those areas that you just described. Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and China. That's a tremendous stress on the system throughout the world. Take it one step further. By the year 2030, that one billion will grow to 1.5 billion, additional people coming into the middle class and they will want, not only more food, but better quality food. They are going to raise their level of diets from subsistent diets that are poor in nutrition to diets that are much more robust in protein, and that's basically meat, milk, and eggs, which is what the Iowa economy, the U.S. economy provides to the world, and that's how we can play a I think a meaningful role, not only furthering our business objectives, but also going after some of the greatest challenges that the globe faces.

David Brody

Senator Ernst, Paul talked about foreign assistance, in essence, foreign assistance here being crucial, and we always heard about Ronald Raegan's peace through strength, but to no fault of anyone, there are certain folks that like to play up more of the military aspect of that, but there's a foreign assistance aspect of that that I know he felt very strongly about as well. Can you address maybe a little bit of that as it relates to what these presidential candidates going forward need to understand a little bit more about why this is integral in the whole peace through strength philosophy of Ronald Raegan?

Joni Ernst

Yes and President Raegan really did have a very robust foreign policy. He appreciated that very much. Peace through strength, of course we think about the strength being the military, but also those folks working in our state department to again, work with those countries on development aspects, economic ventures, whatever it might be, but to those candidates I would say we need to think about this very carefully because of course I am a defense hawk, I really appreciate our military and everything that we do, but we simply can't do it alone, we do have to have our partners in the State Department, we do have to have forms of assistance that are going to those countries, again because, I visited a little bit earlier this morning with a group and we talked about food security and I will tell you when countries when they are fed, when their children aren't starving they are less likely to have unrest in those countries. So again working hand in hand, when you are trading with those countries, when you're helping those counties, they are less likely to rise up against you, being the United States or any of our partners in the region. So it is absolutely necessary, that not only are we looking at our military and making sure we that that we have a robust, active, responsive military, but we also have the same when it comes to our foreign affairs as well.

David Brody

General Christman, I am wondering about if we can talk about Syria real quick. And not about anything that has to do with refugees and limits and numbers, we will leave that for another day, but here as it relates to the humanitarian aspect of all of this in Syria. Help folks understand how the humanitarian crisis and the aid that possibly could come to this, helps with national security implications. How does this all kind of weave together as it relates to the refugee crisis over there?

Dan Christman

Right, I think few folks appreciate that the refugee crisis now is at its peak in global history. 60 million refugees globally are displaced from homes, looking for stable areas to resettle. And of course the most visible of that are the Syrian refugees, in Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon primarily. And I would say that the most obvious way in which we can help is to focus on one or two countries that are so crucial to combatting the Jihadist narrative, and that's Jordan and Turkey and both of those countries have in excess of a million refugees. Jordan is Sunni-Arab and they are perhaps our closest ally, Arab ally in the region. We have a free trade deal with Ahmad and so the ability to provide humanitarian assistance to that country, to the Turks, and even to Lebanon suffering still from its own sectarian strife, is vital to protecting our security to address the refugee issue at its source. And to make no mistake, the source of the problem, is Bashar Assad [sic] and ISIS as well, those twin challenges. But as a separate humanitarian issue, we cannot ignore the challenges that Jordan and Turkey in particular face and that's why the humanitarian side of this, through development and diplomacy is so vital to precluding the arrival of those refugees on our shore. Address it at its source.

David Brody

What about the business aspect of all of this. We have a lot of farmers either in the room or if not, there is some connection to farming somewhere quite a bit in this room, especially obviously here in Iowa. So, what about food security and promoting food security. It might not be the most interesting topic on the surface because people don't understand how this effects national security, but explain a little bit about food security and why it's important to folks in this room and how they link up together?

Paul Schickler

Well maybe I'll make two points because the first point is pretty general, then I'll move to an example. The first point is, if you look at history around the world, and you can do that right here in the United States; the strength of a nation is built upon agricultural capability. You need to have that capability to feed your population. Then as that grows, your economy grows, as that occurs you become much more, not only food secure, but ultimately that leads to national security. Borders are safer, international commerce flourishes, and that lifts the entire economic capability of the nation. So that's a general practice or experience that I think we have seen historically in the United States and throughout the world. But the

specific example, Senator Ernst mentioned about conflict when people are challenged or food insecure, all we need to do is go back and look at the Arab Spring, just a few years ago, that started with a shortage of food. There were a number of harvests, particularly in wheat producing areas that limited wheat production and the next thing that happened were borders were shut down to control supplies, so you lost international trade and the result was Arab Spring. I think that's a great example of how if we enable nations, particularly those underdeveloped nations to develop agricultural capability, if you generate trade and if you leave trade to be free instead of putting barriers on it you can have a meaningful progression against world conflict. And make countries and the world more secure.

David Brody

Paul mentioned trade, which, not to get into TPP and all of this but trades very important here in Iowa, you know about that. About a half million jobs or so are related to it. Tell me a little bit about how trade and some of these deals that we hear in Washington can affect folks here and how it all kind of plays in to the USGLC mission as it relates to development and diplomacy?

Joni Ernst

Yes, absolutely and the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary Northey, have all been very large supporters of our trade efforts because it is such an important aspect here in Iowa. Nearly half a million jobs are dependent upon the export of our goods overseas. And it plays a very very important role in global security. And just a quick example on that, just several months ago, I was in Vietnam and Singapore and traveling for a security conference. And so we landed in Singapore and met with a number of world leaders, military leaders, and remember it's a security conference, but one of the biggest topics of discussion was TPP because for those countries in that part of the globe that was about security, the TPP. They wanted the United States to be their primary trade partner because if we were not going to be their trade partner, there is one country in that region that would step in and be their primary trade partner. And that country is China. And I know that we have some great relations with China, but those countries really wanted to see the United States as a partner rather than having additional Chinese influence in their own countries. So that's a great example of how we maintain security through trade. And I thought it was very interesting, that here we are focused on security and it really bled over into other activities that we're engaging in in the United States Congress.

David Brody

I want to follow up, ask one quick question, but just so you know we are about to open it up for questions around the room, so I'll ask one more question and then if you have something shout it out. The international affairs budget, how frustrating is it to you to know this is 1% and yet it seems to be a degree a punching bag for a lot of folks to beat up on-people

don't quite understand the impact that 1% can have as to what we've been talking about here.

Joni Ernst

Right. 1% of the overall budget and yet it seems to be a very easy target in the United States Congress. It's easy to point the finger and say we really don't need that, these countries can do this on their own and so forth. Without again, understanding how it works with the overall security of our nation and protecting Americans, that small little amount that we do contribute to international supports really does protect our American population again working side by side with so many of the other efforts that we have.

Dan Christman

If I could just add to what Senator Ernst said on the trade piece, David, she was paraphrasing a former West Point Superintendent, Douglas MacArthur, by saying there is no substitute for, he said there's no substitute for victory in World War II, the Senator said no substitute for leadership and that's exactly right. We forget that particular point I think too frequently. As the slide says, this is a forum on America's global leadership and it's exhibited, it's manifested through programs like the one you just outline in Senator, and that's TPP. In addition to the economic benefits, the lowering of tariff barriers, the rise in global GDP, it also exhibits American leadership at a crucial time, at a very very important part of the globe.

David Brody

We are going to open it up for questions. This is the open mic night part of the event. And as I look around I see some, one right in front. Please, yes, tell us who you are.

Audience Question

Rick Burns from Elk Horn, Iowa, not far from Red Oak. It seems like even with all the crises that are happening around the world and maybe because of it, it seems to be an easy question to get applause for is why are we building bridges and spending money overseas when we have so many problems here domestically. I wonder if there is some concern about these voices that would push us toward isolationism and insulating us from the rest of the world?

Joni Ernst

I would say that there is. Thank you for that. I think that there is no substitute for doing both. I think we need to take care of America, that's very important, but in order to take care of America we need to make sure America is safe and that's why we do work on so many overseas missions. Diplomatic missions, military operations. Again, we can't have an entirely safe country without making sure that we are supporting and upholding our allies and preventing what's going on overseas from coming to our own shores. If we have that going on here there's less concern about building a bridge or a roadway, it is simply about survival. So I think that

we have a role to play in both areas; we need to take care of America, but make sure that Americans are safe.

David Brody Walk and chew gum at the same time.

Joni Ernst That's right.

David Brody Okay, this side of the room.

Audience Question Yes, I am Craig Lang from Brooklyn, Iowa and I want to thank the leadership for being here today. This is a very important topic and I certainly understand the value of the international affairs budget, but I have a question. We know that Iowa agriculture plays a vital role in U.S. food security and food security abroad, but my question has more to do with my two sons who work hard every day, seven days a week, they create food; it's dairy, beef, pork, and corn. They feel detached from U.S. agencies. What provides those people that create the food to understand the importance to work with U.S. agencies so those who create the food have a connection with those individuals that need it and what are the opportunities?

David Brody I'll let Paul maybe start and if anyone wants to jump in.

Paul Schickler Well I think you raise a great question. You know, the unrecognized contribution that American farmers make, not only to food production, but also to international trade and to ultimately food security worldwide. I agree with you, we need to do more, get that message out. So let me give you an example of a way in which that is precisely done. We work with USAID, in fact, Liz mentioned it in her comments, Feed the Future program, to develop the capability for agriculture development in Ethiopia. Ethiopia, if you look back over history has been one of the countries that has not only lived through food insecurity, poverty, and malnourishment, but also conflict ridden as well. Pioneer's been in Ethiopia for more than 20 years and about 5 years ago we started the work with USAID, and the first year, let's see, it was 2014, we trained 10,000 farmers, this year we are training 50,000 farmers, next year it's 100,000 farmers and what we are doing is training them on agriculture techniques, capability, and practices, but we're doing it with USAID and also with the Ethiopian governments so that more inputs are made available, education is provided to Ethiopian citizens, and extension services are also provided as well. The end result, and this is documented by the Economists Intelligence Unit, the food security measurement, that measures 109 countries around the world, today Ethiopia is 86 on that list. Four years ago Ethiopia was in the hundreds, so they moved up about 15 places in making them their own country food secure by working with their own government, the government's commitment to investing in agriculture, the U.S. government, the USAID, and multinational Pioneer,

and its lifted that country up 15 levels in the rankings for food security and at the same time move that country to a more food secure and a country that is now less in conflict and more able to feed itself. We need to get that message, those kind of success stories out, throughout the United States and throughout the world about what agriculture can do to lift people's lives and make for a food secure world.

David Brody

Alright, just as a reminder before we take more questions you can tweet your questions to @USGLC, if you see me on the Internet, hello, here I am. Maybe there's some millennials out there, I don't know. Yes?

Audience Question

Hi, I am Beatriz Orduna-Salisbury, I am retired, but I belong to the V.A. for 23 years and I belong to the city and Polk County Health Department for 12 years as Assistant Public Health Director. In the V.A. I was in charge of doing compensation and pensions for all former preserves of war, European Theatre of Operations, Pacific Theatre of Operations, Vietnam, and Environmental Registration Program Veterans who are exposed to agent orange, atomic radiation, Persian Gulf War. My question, I have a lot of questions, but I decided to condense it into two based on what has happened in your talk, which is delightful and I thank you for this. One is, you said that basic security which will protect people from being radicals, etcetera, is food, I was wondering, when I came here as an immigrant in 1969 with a green card and I trained again as a physician, I was a front tier medicine physician in the Philippines, I was wondering, I consider myself an Iowan and during that time before we immigrated somehow I read that Iowa is the bread basket of the United States, I don't know if that is true but I believe that way. What are we doing to ensure that the agricultural acreage is conserved for the future versus the development housing and we're having problems with water and pollution because of housing and that's one thing? What is a ratio here in Iowa, in the future, acreage for food and housing development acreage? I know that is a very sensitive thing but I wanted to check. The other thing I would like to ask is, what can a retired person who is a professional like me, I am 76 years old but I feel like I am 30, I want to be useful and I have a lot of experience from the rural frontier medicine in the Philippines and I am an American but I know the Philippines and I was raised in public service. What can we do in areas of security, education, about security, about food, and what are we doing with the Philippines, which Margaret Thatcher in 1995 said that the Philippines is a bastion of democracy because if it's Christian it speaks English, there's no language barrier. The international rice reserves was there the miracle corn was considered there and the Philippines for 42 years was a U.S. territory. That's my question.

David Brody

Thank you. That's part ABCDE. Who wants to take-anybody?

Paul Schickler

I can deal with the first part of the question because you mentioned the challenges that agriculture faces whether it's land or water or just environmental issues. That is key and critical, those are very meaningful challenges, and I would add another and that is farmers. As we continue to move from more of a rural economy, whether it's the United States or everywhere in the world, we are moving from rural to urban so we are running out of the people to drive food production. So whether it is water, land, environmental issues, or farmers, we need to make farming, make agricultural, make food production, much more productive and do it in a way that is environmentally, culturally, and financially sustainable. That's what our business is all about. To drive that level of productivity and sustainability and we work with academia, governments, NGO's around the world, to help make that progress because what you described are the set of challenges if we are going to feed the 9 billion people that e are going to have on the planet over the next number of years, we must do it with fewer resources then are in place today.

David Brody

And if you have a question maybe that hasn't been answered, afterwards come down here and there'll be a tip jar-no tip jar, no tip jar.

Audience Question

My name is Clemen Wilcox Good afternoon everyone. I work for Clemen Wilcox and Associates and I am foreign born. I was born in Colombia. We met in Washington with Senator Ernst and thank you for your story. It's very touching and we understand why you work in diplomacy because it was close to your heart. I would like to hear the stories from the other two guests, that are the personal stories, as to why you want to talk about soft power. I am from Colombia so it is natural for me to talk about soft power and how it has helped Colombia, but what is your personal story, what can you tell us so we continue pushing for that?

Dan Christman

Let me take a stab. Colombia is a perfect example. It was my privilege when I was working with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on the international side to get to know President Alvaro Uribe extremely well, in fact as a side story I was introducing him at an event just like this, I took high school Spanish, tried my very best to introduce him in Spanish, took my earphone out so I could at least pretend like I was understanding his wonderful speech. He sat down next to me and said, "Senor President, Su discurso fue excelente." He said, "General, why don't we just speak in English." So I had this warm spot in my heart, not only for Alvaro Uribe but also for Colombia. And Colombia is in so many respects a perfect example of what we're talking about here. It would have been easy with a request from President Uribe to soldiers to work with the Colombian Military against the FARC against the ER and so on, but we did not-we had a few advisors, but the thrust of the strategy was Plan Colombia. A serious of counter narcotics and economic initiatives that I would argue broke the back of this crucial drug cartel that's continuing to improve to

this day and it's one of the best examples it seems to me of blending, not only the kinetic side, the military side of all this, but the soft power into this collective smart power package that is a wonderful example, not just in the hemisphere as it's worked with Colombia but globally as well. With the range of issues that we face to think of the model and the example that was used, and it's continuing to be used with Colombia to this day.

David Brody Okay, very nice, let's get one more and we'll do a quick rap up.

Audience Question Hello, I am Tom Connelly, I am a Commander in the Navy. We cannot have food security without personal security, in other words our personal security. So this is primarily for General Christman, General Jack Kean retired recently, stated that ISIS is a rather simple problem. We kill them or they kill us, so there is no negotiation. If you were advising a candidate for president on a strategy for ISIS, can you tell me what it would be?

Dan Christman Well that's a very very simple question, certainly not politically charged. ISIS like the other challenges we've faced isn't all a government challenge. Let's be candid. But I think where General Jack Kean is coming from on this, and you might as you probe this issue with candidates ask how they come out, as sort of a litmus test of the seriousness here and their ability to understand it, so what do you think about boots on the ground. You think we should have boots on the ground here? And the answer, I think where Jack Keane, former Vice Chief of Staff of the Army who is a frequent contributor now on the networks is coming from is, you're darn right we need more boots, but the question is what kind of boot? What you need in my judgement, this is Dan Christman talking, this is not Lieutenant Dan associated with any organization, you need non ISIS Sunni boots on the ground. The question always is if we were to seize Raqqa, which militarily could be done, probably fairly fairly directly with a set, again, of U.S. boots. Our former Ambassador there, Jim Jeffrey has said you can do it with the same number of boots, say 8,000 that it took to recapture Fallujah in 2007, 2008. That's all you need, but then the question is, so what's next? You need to occupy, stabilize, use the next elements of national power to ensure that what you've just done doesn't metastasize further and doesn't require another traunch of boots five years later. The only way to do it is with non ISIS, Sunni, largely Arab boots. And the question is, candidate, so how are you going to get those? What kind of global leadership is going to be necessary to pull together the usual candidates that can provide those boots; Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the UAE, careful on Turkey because they aren't Arab, they may have their interests in the Northern part of Syria as well and the memories are long about the old Ottoman Empire, but all of this needs to be stitched together for a kinetic solution to the problem, but again, as the Senator emphasized, the kinetic aspect is only one really small element of the larger ISIS issue. It's ideology, it's the economy, it's Bashar Al Assad, it's

Sunni Shia, and all of that has got to be stitched together in a comprehensive strategy but I hope that addresses the particular question you've asked in terms of what to do, with Jack Keane, General Jack Keane in particular.

David Brody

And to piggy back off that a little bit, if you were in a room, and you will be in a room with some of these presidential candidates, you know many of them well. What would be the message/advice that you would want to give them in terms of America's global leadership in the world as it relates to what we are talking about here? What do they need to understand about what we've been talking about here today? To kind of sum it up, give me kind of that briefing.

Joni Ernst

First, I want that candidate to understand that leadership is different than someone being in authority. You can carry title the President but that doesn't necessarily make you a leader. To be a leader you have to inspire other people to follow you to achieve a common goal. And that's where I feel, right now, we have a void because we need a leader that will step forward and will say, Arab nations, allies, we need to come together and work together, but also in doing that, whether it's a military aspect or whether it's the other lines of effort, diplomatic and so forth, we need a leader that can pull people together to combat ISIS, to combat hunger, to combat so many other issues, malaria, other disease in Africa, whether, whatever that situation is we need a leader and a leader has to understand that there are problems out there that need to be addressed with very hard decisions.

David Brody

Well said. I have a quick rapping question-it's Thanksgiving in a few days, I'll be eating quite a bit. Here's my question Paul, for all of you, what makes you thankful, given that it's thanksgiving, that America is a leader in the world? What makes you thankful that America is a leader in the world?

Paul Schickler

What makes me thankful is that we do rise up to that leadership expectation, we don't sit back and watch, we don't sit back and be isolationists in the challenges that the world faces, but rather we step forward and be a leader and also receive a tremendous amount of satisfaction by lifting others up. You asked what my personal story was so I'll tie that to this and that is and also to the Philippines. We had, two years ago I think, about this time the Tacloban typhoon. I was in the Philippines last year and our business in the Philippines in Tacloban went and built a typhoon shelter so that the local citizens had a place to go to protect themselves and also transferred knowledge to the local citizens so that they could restore their agricultural productivity. That's a lot to be thankful for.

David Brody Very nice. What about, General, what are you most thankful for regarding America's leadership in the world?

Dan Christman Well actually I was thinking of this when I landed in Des Moines, it was my first time back in years. And candidly, the first exposure I had to Iowa was in Vietnam when I was the company commander of the 101st Airborne division, third brigade and one of the first soldiers that we lost in combat was a young man named Craig Rogers and Craig was from a farm in Waterloo, Iowa, and he loved his state and he loved the army. I was about to make him my radio man when he was killed with what we called then, a booby trap, today we call an IED. But I think of Craig a lot and particularly when I land in Iowa to know of the love which he had for his state and for his country, but in particular, the ethic of service that he reflected. So if I were to reflect on Thanksgiving it would be to those who have served and who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of this country and the values and the freedoms we enjoy.

David Brody Senator, we will let you have the final word.

Joni Ernst Thankful the leadership that America provides, again, I just want to go back to the fact that, leadership and what that word truly encompasses is to be able to inspire others and our nation by its very nature inspires all of our children to do so many great things, not just here in the United States, but globally. And so I am thankful that we have a nation that can be a leader and provides opportunity for even the very least among us. So I hope you all have a wonderful thanksgiving and God bless you all and God bless the great United States of America.

David Brody Very nice. Very nice. And of course I am very thankful for this panel and Liz back to you.

Liz Schray I sure am thankful for David Brody, for Paul Schickler, for General Christman, and for Senator Ernst for their leadership. So now it's up to you, so here's the closing of this incredible conversation. I thank our partners. I thank everybody who is a member of the USGLC Advisory Committee. And for the campaigns who spent a little bit of their afternoon with us today. The wonderful thing about the USGLC is we're not an organization that comes here to ask for your money, you can give it if you want, but we do ask for your voice and that's what a lot of people do that come to Iowa right now. We ask you if you're a veteran to become a member of Veterans for Smart Power if you're not one. We ask you to, if you get a note from us, it means that we are telling you there is something going on in Washington, typically around a budget, and likely it's to make sure you say thank you to this incredible Senator and to Congressman Young who is here as well with your other delegation because they do what we've just been talking about. They stick their neck out and they lead

just like we've been talking about and we are your eyes and ears in Washington. These issues don't come up that often but when they do it is really important that you say thank you when they stand up and lead whether it's around the international affairs budget, or these global health issues, or education that we're talking about. So we will not drive you crazy by email but when we write you really it's important to make that you say thank you to them. And last but not least is because you have a seat at the table of the presidential election, unlike anybody else, we do ask you to ask those candidates what is their view of America's leadership in the world. Will they embrace the issues of development and diplomacy alongside defense? We are meeting with the candidates, you can see on our website; impact2016.org, we are following what the candidates are saying on the election trail and we are finding that they are interested in talking about these issues and we are pleased that so many are here and are talking about them. I share with you the final story is that I went back earlier this year back to Tanzania and I went to Arusha, Tanzania this year and I went to what felt like was a little bit of a startup and it was a place that was called Off Grid Electric. And it was also kind of in the middle of nowhere and it was a place that was trying to put solar panels to address an issue of a country where 2/3s of the country does not have access to sustainable electricity. Can you imagine? Everything in our life we use electricity for. And they can't have they don't have sustainable electricity. So this little company, for-profit company, got \$100,000 loan from USAID and they leveraged it to get 22 million dollars in private equity. But that wasn't what the cool part was, later that evening I went out to a home, what we would not necessarily call a home, but they did. It was this hut in the most rural part of any place I had ever seen and I went into the home which was literally one room and I walked in and I met the father named Emmanuel and I asked through a translator as he flipped a switch and one single lightbulb went on and I was told when that lightbulb went on the first time it was the first time his family saw electricity, ever. And I said, "How has this lightbulb changed your family's life?" and he lit up as the translator asked the question and he grabbed his son and his daughter and he hugged them and he said to me through the translator, "My children can now do their homework. They have hope. They have a future." My friends, this is what we can be thankful for, America leadership is a tradition at Thanksgiving, we can celebrate. Happy holidays. Thank you for joining us today.