

Statement of William J. “Bill” Renick
Nominee to the Tennessee Valley Board of Directors
Before the
U.S Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate and Nuclear Safety
September 7, 2022

Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, Chairman Markey, Ranking Member Inhofe, and members of the committee.

Thank you all for the opportunity to appear before this committee. I am truly honored and humbled to be nominated by President Biden to serve on the Tennessee Valley Board of Directors, and I am so appreciative to my two senators and friends, Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith, for their support throughout the process of my nomination and for their support of TVA.

My name is Bill Renick, and I am from Ashland, Mississippi, a beautiful little town about 45 minutes east of Memphis and about 45 minutes west of Tupelo, which just happens to be the first TVA city - the very first city to receive electricity from TVA. Both my parents were lifelong public-school teachers. My wife, Debbie and I have been married for 48 years and have two children, Will and Suzy, and two grandchildren. I am a long-time member of Ashland Baptist Church, where I teach a Sunday School class. My faith and my family are very important to me.

The public service bug bit me at a very early age. The first time that I could vote, I voted for myself. At the ripe old age of 18, I was elected to the Board of Alderman in Ashland. After serving two terms, I was elected mayor. I then was elected to the Benton County Board of Supervisors where I served as vice-chairman, and subsequently to the Mississippi State Senate.

Following my time in the state legislature, I served as the chief-of-staff to both Republican Lt. Governor Eddie Briggs and Democratic Governor Ronnie Musgrove. In between those two terms, I was president of the Mississippi Retail Association and later administrator of Holly Springs Memorial Hospital. I have also spent a great deal of my career in economic and workforce development. After Governor Musgrove’s term ended, I was named executive director of the Marshall County Industrial Development Authority and helped develop very successful industrial sites that now are home to companies such as Amazon, Volvo, Asics, McCormick Spices, Corelle, Cooper Tire, and Kellogg’s. All are powered by TVA generated electricity, which was a key component to their locating in Mississippi.

I spent the last 13 years of my full-time working career as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Division Director at Three Rivers Planning and Development District in Pontotoc, MS, retiring in June of 2021. There we administered federal workforce training funds for 27 counties in North Mississippi.

As exemplified by my background, I have lived and served my entire life in the TVA service area. I was proud to be a part of helping with the development and location of those major companies that I

previously named, but I would also like to share an early experience from when I was a young alderman in Ashland and a small, locally owned company named TCI, Torque Convertors Incorporated, was working to build their first facility in Ashland. We had one small area of need to close the deal. We had to pave the parking lot so the employees could have a place out of the mud to park and the trucks could get the finished product in and out of the building. That need was filled by TVA, and 50 years later that company, TCI, is still building torque convertors in Ashland.

The three Es of TVA, Energy, Environment, and Economic Development are all extremely important to the citizens of the Valley, just as they have been since 1933. The TVA mission of providing safe, clean, reliable, and affordable power is a mission that must continue to be achieved to insure the economic growth of the Tennessee Valley region. Also important to the livelihoods of the 10 million citizens that depend on TVA is their responsibility to manage and maintain the beautiful natural environment and recreational opportunities with which the region is blessed. It is a tremendous responsibility.

I will commit to listen, to learn, to evaluate, and to execute using the same common sense that has served me well in my over 50 years of public service. My dedication to the mission of TVA and its millions of citizen users will be supported by my ultimate commitment to treat and serve my fellowman as I would want to be treated and served. I learned that "golden rule" way of life a long time ago at Ashland Baptist Church.

Thank you again for this opportunity. If confirmed, I'm excited and anxious to go to work.