

Statement of Kenneth “Kenny” E. Allen  
Nominee to the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors  
before the  
U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee  
Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety  
Tuesday, November 28, 2018

Good morning, Madam Chair, Ranking member Whitehouse and members of the Committee. I am extremely honored to be nominated by President Trump to serve on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority. I would like to thank Senator Mitchell McConnell from my home state of Kentucky who brought my name to the attention of the President, and all of you for taking time to consider my nomination.

I have spent my entire life working in the energy sector and believe that reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy is the very foundation of the standard of living in our great country. I believe that the Tennessee Valley Authority, by the very nature of its structure and long history, has, and will continue to play a major role in the innovation and implementation of energy policy and the production of energy for the future success of our society.

I have led an extremely blessed life. Having grown up on a small farm in rural Western Kentucky, I was raised in a strong Christian family and taught a strong work ethic at a very early age. I began my career in coal mining in the mid-sixties and spent fifty years working in various capacities with two mining companies: forty years with Peabody Energy, and the last ten years before my retirement in June of this year with Armstrong Energy.

I began my mining career as an electrician at a mine in Ohio County, Kentucky. Power for

the mine was provided from the Paradise Generating facility in neighboring Muhlenberg County, a relatively new power plant that was then, and continues to be operated by TVA. This was the first of many experiences with TVA that my career would bring. My fascination and interest in electricity was fueled by the opportunities afforded me at the mine working on the large electric machines. As I worked and self-schooled myself, I was able to advance in my profession. In 1973 I became the Chief Electrician at one of the largest mines in Western Kentucky, and in 1984 I was promoted to the position of Chief Electrical Engineer for the Eastern Division of Peabody and later assumed that responsibility for the Mid-West region of the company. From there I moved into senior management in the early nineties. Through the years I have served on various state and community boards, commissions, and committees both in civic and governmental entities such as the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Economic Development Board of Directors, Kentucky Workforce Development Board of Directors, and the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors. I have been the Chairman of the Upper Pond River Conservancy District for the past ten or twelve years and I currently serve as Vice Chairman and Commissioner of the Kentucky Reclamation Guaranty Fund.

The early experiences in my career not only gave me insight into the mechanics of our country's vast electrical system, it gave me a great appreciation for all of the many lives and businesses that are touched and involved in the production of the electricity that each American enjoys every day. My time spent in management gave me a better knowledge of our economy as it relates to business, and the important role our infrastructure plays in our day to day lives and jobs, power supply, roads, waterways, communication, etc. TVA plays an important role, not only in power supply, but also the management of our waterways,

transportation and powerline corridors, as well as many acres of beautiful forest lands and lakes that enhance our region. The time that I have spent serving on both civic and governmental boards, commissions, and committees has strengthened my ability to deal with the public, and has helped to broaden my thought process beyond conventional thinking regarding some of the things that impact our daily way of life.

I believe that the Tennessee Valley Authority has a responsibility to the region it serves, to continue to provide reliable and affordable electricity, to maintain the highest standards with regard to the environment, and to continue to manage all of the resources under their care in a professional and responsible manner.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve on this board if approved by you and respectfully ask for your consideration in this nomination process. I welcome the opportunity to serve on this board, and commit to do my very best to help lead this organization in a direction that will promote and preserve our way of life and the principles of our great country.

Again, thank you for your time today.