

STATEMENT BY THOMAS C. GILLILAND,
BEFORE THE US SENATE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
OCTOBER 2, 2007 - - WASHINGTON, DC

Madame Chairman, thank you for your leadership in holding today's hearing. To you, Senator Inhofe, and to all the Members of the Committee, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before you in this confirmation process.

I also want to thank Senator Isakson, Senator Chambliss and Congressman Nathan Deal for their recommendation, and to the President, my thanks for this nomination. I'm grateful to all of them, and humbled, for their confidence in me that this nomination represents.

I also want to thank my wife, Candy, who is with me today. I'm grateful for her encouragement and support in undertaking the responsibilities and time that will be necessary to serve as a Director of the Tennessee Valley Authority if I am confirmed.

Our home is in a small community in the mountains of north Georgia where generations of my family have lived. Until the late 1930's, this area, as well as much of the Tennessee Valley, was without electricity. The Tennessee Valley Authority not only brought light, it brought economic growth, flood control and environmental stewardship to our region.

In the late 1930's my father graduated from law school at the University of Kentucky. His first job was with TVA, handling land acquisition for reservoirs and power generating facilities in the mountains of north Georgia. There he met my mother, so in many ways I appear before this Committee today because of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Although I have never held public office, over the years I have had the privilege of serving on numerous boards and committees, having been appointed from both sides of the aisle. I have always taken these tasks and responsibilities with the utmost seriousness and commitment to the challenge at hand.

For the past eight years, I have served on the board and as Chair of the authority which oversees one of the largest metropolitan parks in America. My service includes overseeing both the financial management of Georgia's largest tourist attraction, and the maintenance of the environmental integrity of over 3,000 acres of this largely undeveloped scenic park.

I've also had the opportunity to guide a public regional banking company through implementation of the Sarbanes-Oxley legislation; a statute, rules and regulations which I support and applaud.

With the structural changes to TVA created by Congress in 2005, the agency has progressed quickly to embrace a more efficient and open business structure, all the while remaining true to its original mission of energy, the environment and economic development.

I am proud to offer my experience, in both the public and private sector, as a lawyer and a banker. I am confident that my experience will be helpful to the nation's largest public power producer as I seek to become Georgia's first representative on the TVA Board.

If confirmed, I look forward to offering my time and energy to this very important and vital component of our economy and our nation's responsibility to its citizens. Once again, thank you for your time and the opportunity to address the Committee. It's an honor to be with you, and I look forward to your questions.