

STATEMENT OF ANNIE CAPUTO
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
June 7, 2017

Thank you, Chairman Barrasso, Ranking Member Carper, and Members of the Committee. I have been very thankful for the opportunity to work for Chairman Barrasso this year, continuing my service to the Members of the EPW Committee under his leadership.

I am grateful to President Trump for nominating me to serve on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Public service is a privilege. If the Senate confirms my nomination, I will be honored to serve.

Before I begin, I'd like to acknowledge my family. I'd like to thank AJ, my husband of 19 years, for his constant support of my public service. And our children, Owen and Abigail, who are our greatest blessings and who assured me they'd be on their best behavior today.

In preparing for today, I have spent time reflecting on what it would mean to take on the responsibility of a commissioner and how key experiences in my life have helped prepare me for such a role. What I realized is several experiences closely echo the NRC's Mission, Values, and Principles of Good Regulation.

First, my mother not only taught me right from wrong, but to distinguish between what's right and what's popular. This is a lesson that would guide me in the position to which I've been nominated. It is a lesson I believe is well articulated in the NRC's Principle of Independence that states:

"All available facts and opinions must be sought openly from licensees and other interested members of the public. The many and possibly conflicting public interests involved must be considered. Final decisions must be based on objective, unbiased assessments of all information..."

Second, my brief service as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician for the Snowmass Wildcat Fire Department showed me the importance of dedication to public health and safety, professionalism, teamwork, and the satisfaction of serving the community. It was here that the seed of public service was planted and took root. These are values that guide me to this day and are in keeping with the NRC Values of Commitment, Respect, Cooperation, and Service.

Third, my first job after graduating with my nuclear engineering degree was with Commonwealth Edison in Chicago. Half of their nuclear plants were on the NRC's "watch list" due to safety concerns. Oliver Kingsley took on the role of president and transformed the organization's performance based on the principle that safety and operations are inextricably linked: that operations excellence depends on a dedication to

safety. If a nuclear plant isn't maintained with disciplined focus on safety, it won't run well. Safety first. That is what I learned from Oliver Kingsley and that is the mission of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

I have been privileged to serve in both the House and Senate for twelve years, the majority of my career. In these roles, I have been continually challenged by Members to learn as much as I can. In doing so, I have seen the impressive expertise and professionalism of the NRC staff in action. I have no doubt the staff's caliber and commitment is why the NRC is considered the gold standard for nuclear safety the world over. I have much to learn and they have much to teach me.

Lastly, Members have directed me to seek out the best policy, and to work with bipartisanship to accomplish their goals. These experiences developed my ability to work collegially to find agreement among different views and to craft solutions by working together.

By sharing these experiences with you, I hope to provide you with insight into my character and how my values would guide my conduct as a commissioner, if confirmed. It is humbling to be considered for such a serious responsibility. I would strive to execute that responsibility with integrity and professionalism, in a manner that earns the public's trust, and in keeping with NRC's Mission, Principles, and Values.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear today and look forward to your questions.