

Statement of Katherine A. Crytzer
Nominee to be Inspector General, Tennessee Valley Authority
before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety
May 19, 2020

Chairman Braun, Ranking Member Whitehouse, and distinguished Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and for making today's hearing possible under the circumstances. I would also like to thank the President for nominating me to serve as the Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority. I am honored. And I am grateful to Senator Alexander and Senator Blackburn for their support of my nomination. For decades, Senator Blackburn and Senator Alexander have fought hard for Tennesseans, and it is both humbling and inspiring that they have placed their trust in me to do the same.

I would also like to thank my family, friends, and colleagues for their support. First and foremost, I want to thank my husband Joe Oliveri. Joe is a brilliant lawyer and my rock. I also specifically want to thank my mother Karen Crytzer, who is watching this hearing electronically from our family home in Knoxville, Tennessee. My mother is a strong woman and the most bighearted person I know. I also want to recognize my father Jim Crytzer who passed away unexpectedly six years ago. My father was an auditor, first for the Army and then for the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Energy in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. My family moved to Tennessee nearly 25 years ago, and no matter how far I've traveled away since then, I have always come home to East Tennessee. Growing up, my parents instilled in me and my siblings a respect for service, the importance of integrity and fair dealing, and a steadfast appreciation for precision and details. These are important values that continue to guide my life and work today.

For the last six years, I have had the privilege of serving at the Department of Justice. For me, public service is a higher calling. The day I was sworn in as an Assistant United States Attorney is one I will never forget. That day, in front of my colleagues, I took a solemn oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States." I committed to doing justice. Every day, in my work at the Department, I strive to be independent and objective—to do justice. As an AUSA, I led criminal and civil fraud investigations and audits in a fair, impartial, and meticulous fashion. We followed the facts where they led us and applied the relevant law to the facts as we found them, without interference or favor.

In my office at the Justice Department, I keep a piece of paper posted above my computer. That piece of paper reads: "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." President Theodore Roosevelt delivered these words in 1903, before the Tennessee Valley Authority was created, but they still ring true today. Those words stand as a constant reminder to seek out the hard work that is truly worth doing. That is what led me to serve at the Department of Justice, and it is what leads me here today.

In the Tennessee Valley Authority Act, Congress charged the TVA with a unique mission—to improve the quality of life for the people of the Tennessee Valley through "technical innovation," the provision of "low-cost power," and "environmental stewardship." TVA's effectiveness depends on public trust. That trust must be earned and maintained. It can be lost forever on any

day, at any moment. By conducting rigorous oversight, the Office of Inspector General plays a critical role in ensuring that the Tennessee Valley Authority continues to foster and earn the public's trust.

I would be honored to lead the Office of Inspector General's crucial work to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse within the TVA. If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, I will remain independent and impartial in my undertakings, including audits, evaluations, and investigations. I will act with integrity and be an honest and fair dealer. I am committed to the rule of law. I promise to work hard to make the Tennessee Valley Authority more efficient, effective, and accountable, so that it can make life better for the people of the Tennessee Valley—my family included. To return to the words of President Roosevelt, that is certainly "work worth doing."

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I appreciate your consideration of my nomination, and I look forward to answering your questions.