

STATEMENT OF DAVID A. WRIGHT, NOMINATED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

June 13, 2017

Thank you, Chairman Barrasso, ranking Member Carper, and the members of the committee for the opportunity to appear before you today. And, I would be remiss if I did not also thank my home state Senator and my friend, Lindsey Graham, for his kind introduction of me to this committee.

I am humbled and honored to appear before you today as a Presidential nominee of the President to serve as a commissioner on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It is an honor and privilege, not just for me personally, but also for my family, my church and community, my state, and all of the people I have worked with, and served with over the years.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, if I may, I would like to recognize my mother, Irene Wright, whom is with me today. She gave birth to me on her 24th birthday...and next month, we will both celebrate the 62nd anniversary of her 24th birthday! I will let you all do the math.

She is truly one of God's Angels living on this Earth...and I get to call her Mom.

June is a busy time of year for the Wright Family. My oldest daughter, Kimberly, is wrapping up her year as a kindergarten teacher. My second daughter, Courtney, is working for the State of South Carolina, and she and her husband, Ray, are raising three wonderful children – and my grandchildren. Senator Boozman, my oldest son, Austin, is a nursing home administrator working in Cabot, Arkansas; and, my youngest son, Andrew, a rising college sophomore, is in his last week as a Young Life Summer Camp counselor at Sharp Top Cove in Jasper, Georgia. Although my family is not able to be here in person today, I can feel each of them and their support. They are a gift from God and I am blessed to be their Dad.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, if confirmed, I look forward to working closely with my fellow nominees, Chairman Kristine Svinicki and Annie Caputo, as well as Commissioners Steve Burns and Jeff Baran, in carrying out the NRC's mission of protecting public health and safety, promoting the common defense and security and protecting the environment. I pledge to work closely with each member of the Commission in the spirit of collegiality, and I believe we will work very well together. I look forward to developing a good working relationship with this committee as you fulfill your important oversight role, too.

One thing my mother taught and modeled for me was selflessness in service to others. She told me that when I volunteered or committed to something, to do so to the best of my ability. Work hard, do not quit, and never, ever give up. It was through her that I

learned that as I helped others succeed and achieve their goals, I would find success and satisfaction for myself, too.

I have a broad and varied professional background in private business and in public life. Having been self-employed the majority of my adult life, I have also served in various elected positions in local and state government. Although we are all shaped by the entirety of the events and experiences in our lives, I am confident I find myself before you today because of my service on the South Carolina Public Service Commission.

Since 2004, I served as a South Carolina Commissioner for nearly ten years, where I also had the privilege to serve as Chairman.

During my tenure as a commissioner, in 2008, I was diagnosed with Stage 3 colon cancer. I had surgery and went through months of chemotherapy, but I did not miss very much time at the commission. For the record, my oldest daughter was diagnosed with Stage 3-c colon cancer a year after I completed treatments, but I will save that story for another time. It was during that time, though, that I made the decision to do things I had not previously considered, and to challenge myself in ways I might not have, had it not been for that trial in my life.

As a commissioner, I was already active within the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). I served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues and Nuclear Waste for three years.

I was our state's representative on the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition (NWSC), where I also served on the executive committee. In 2006, I was asked to serve as the NWSC's Chairman and I served in that role until I retired from state service in 2013.

I had the honor of serving as President of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC) in June of 2008 and led that 11-state regional association until June 2009.

In November 2010, I became first Vice-President of NARUC and, in November 2011, I was elected by my fellow commissioners to serve as the President of NARUC – the highest professional honor of my life - until today.

During my years as a commissioner, including my service in leadership roles at the regional and national levels, I have been successful in building bridges and building consensus on issues, and in the creation and adoption of policy. In fact, the NARUC staff called me "Coach" during my year as president. If given the honor to serve the country in this position, I will approach my service as a commissioner at the NRC no differently.

In establishing the Commission, the Congress wisely sought to bring together five individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences. If confirmed, I believe my regulatory background at the state level, along with my experiences in business and elected office, provide a sound foundation for considering matters that will come before me as a

member of the Commission.

If confirmed, I will approach my work as a Commissioner with an open mind and in a collegial manner. I will listen to all parties, and points of view, seek clarification where needed, endeavor to establish a complete record, base my decision on the facts before me, and work to build consensus among the commissioners whenever possible.

Chairman Barrasso, Ranking Member Carper, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to your questions.

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