U.S. Senator John Barrasso
Introduction of Congressman Lee Zeldin
Before the Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works

Chairman Capito, Ranking Member Whitehouse, members of the Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to be here today to introduce Congressman Lee Zeldin, who has been nominated to be the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA is very important to Wyoming and to the nation. It is responsible for protecting our air, our water, and our communities. Americans deserve clean air and clean water. They also deserve clear rules and common sense from their government.

Over the last four years, they have gotten neither. The EPA has pushed policies that kill jobs in Wyoming and raise costs for families across the country. It has also pursued rules that shut down power generation and threaten electric reliability.

Americans should be able to take for granted that the lights will go on when they flip the switch. They should know that those making the rules understand that their livelihoods depend on a balanced and measured approach. Instead, the approach over the last four years has been based solely on radical environmentalism.

Congressman Zeldin will correct the course of the EPA. He has been highly motivated from a young age, having graduated law school at 23 years old. He has over 20 years of military service, and still counting! Lieutenant Colonel Zeldin has a range of experience in the Army. He was a military intelligence officer. He was a prosecutor and military magistrate. He is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he served with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division as a paratrooper. And just last weekend he was on Army Reserve duty.

His public service does not end there. In addition to his time in the U.S Congress, he served in the New York State Senate. He knows firsthand how important it is for the federal government to be a partner to states, rather than an out-of-touch regulator. This is the dedication and understanding he will bring to the EPA. His experience shows that he knows how to balance multiple priorities. He understands that we must be good stewards of the environment without crippling our economy.

Many organizations – both public and private – agree that Lee is the right person for the job. One of those organizations is the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. In a letter to the Committee, the Association said "*he has shown a willingness to engage with a broad spectrum of stakeholders to address pressing issues […]. This approach is critical for achieving EPA's mission in a way that balances environmental protection and pragmatic public policy implementation […]".*

He also has strong support from his community back home. The Long Island Water Conference said that "*we are offering our strong support for fellow Long Islander and New Yorker Lee*

Zeldin […]. We believe that Mr. Zeldin's experience will provide a balanced approach to the regulatory process. This will ultimately provide effective protection of public health and the environment."

I share these organizations' confidence that Congressman Zeldin will lead the EPA in a more balanced, even-handed direction.

Lee, congratulations on your nomination. I look forward to working with you on these important issues. I once again thank the Committee for letting me join them today.