**Statement of Adam "Wade" White**

**Nominee to the Tennessee Valley Board of Directors**

**Before the**

**U.S Senate Environment and Public Works Committee**

**Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate and Nuclear Safety**

**September 7, 2022**

Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, Subcommittee Chairman Markey, Ranking Member Inhofe, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am honored to have been nominated by President Biden to serve on the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors. I also would like to acknowledge and thank Senate Minority Leader McConnell for his recommendation of me to the president and all his help throughout this confirmation process. Thank you to the committee for considering my nomination.

By way of introduction, I have been a lifelong resident of Western Kentucky within the footprint of the Tennessee Valley. I grew up in Lyon County, Kentucky, enjoying the benefits of fishing on Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake. I have spent a lifetime of fishing above and below Kentucky Dam, a TVA hydroelectric dam. I graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky in 1995 and went to work in the insurance industry.

In 2010, I won my first term as Lyon County Judge Executive, and I am currently serving out my third term. My years as judge executive have prepared me immensely for this position. Lyon County is a small county uniquely situated within the boundaries of multiple government owned land. Lake Barkley flows through the heart of Lyon County owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Barkley Dam, also in in Lyon County, and Kentucky Dam is near our border. Sixty percent of Lyon County is controlled by a state or federal agency. This is significant and has given me a great understanding of how large agencies can have both a positive and negative impact on local communities and how important it is to always work to serve the people first.

I am very familiar with the benefits TVA has provided to my county, not only with Kentucky Dam's hydroelectric, but also the natural resources the lake provides to locals and our tourists from all over the country. During my service as Judge Executive, we have benefited from a strong tourism and fishing industry that has ripple effects across Western Kentucky. My heart is in protecting, promoting, and conserving these natural resources, our fisheries and wildlife.

Another impact TVA is having in my county is with economic development. My county is a recipient of approximately $150,000 per year for use in economic development via TVA's payments in lieu of taxes. A small county like ours could never generate enough tax base for such an endeavor. It is a game changer and allows our county to compete for good high paying jobs.

TVA is also having an impact on my county's ability to receive fast, reliable internet. Fortunately, the southern section of Lyon County is serviced by Pennyrile Rural Electric, a TVA customer, or local power

company (LPC). With the leadership of Pennyrile President Alan Gates, my county signed a contract with Pennyrile Rural Electric to service customers within their footprint with fiber internet. Within a year, Pennyrile Rural has matched dollar for dollar our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money and received a grant all totaling to a 2.8-million-dollar investment in the phase one buildout, which is going on as I speak. This was all made possible because TVA made a way for their LPCs to invest in internet. It is my understanding more LPCs within TVA are looking at the work in my county as a model for other areas within the TVA area. I plan to support the further development of internet within the TVA footprint.

Lyon County is also the planned home to one of the largest solar farms in Kentucky. The planned solar farm covers 800 acres with an expansion plan set to start within the coming year. In 2021, I was appointed by Governor Andy Beshear to serve as a member of the Kentucky State Electric Generation and Transmission Siting Board. During my service, we were able to work out the plans for the RWE Group to build this solar farm, and the permit has been granted. I would look forward to bringing this experience to the TVA Board of Directors and assist with similar future projects in the TVA footprint.

It is an honor to be appointed by the president for this position, and I am thankful to be here today in the confirmation process. I will work hard to educate myself and always use a commonsense approach in making decisions that affect the more than 10 million customers across the Tennessee Valley. Thank you all for considering my nomination, and I would appreciate the opportunity to serve as a Board Director for the Tennessee Valley Authority.