STATEMENT OF WILLIAM B. SANSOM
NOMINEE TO THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS
FEBRUARY 10, 2010

Madame Chairman, Ranking Member Inhofe, other members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you today to be considered for the TVA Board of Directors. I want to thank The President for this nomination, and I am grateful to my home state Senators, Senator Alexander and Senator Corker, along with other members of the Tennessee delegation, for their support.

When TVA transitioned from a full-time, three-person Board to a nine-person, part-time Board in 2006, as new Board members, my colleagues and I wanted to provide an updated strategic direction to TVA and to make good business decisions. That's why one of our initiatives following Senate confirmation was to undertake the development of a strategic plan to guide TVA's efforts. The plan provided direction to TVA management to strengthen its financial performance, continue to improve customer satisfaction, and work to achieve top quartile performance.

As new Board members, we also recognized TVA's unique role in environmental stewardship and protecting the resources of the Tennessee Valley. We built on the strategic plan with the adoption of an environmental policy that will help TVA reduce its environmental impact while still providing reliable and affordable power, a key part of TVA's mission.
I've also served on the Board during a challenging time at TVA following the ash spill at Kingston in December, 2008, and I know this committee, in its oversight role, has followed this issue closely.

If I am reconfirmed, I want to see TVA continue to grow its portfolio of cleaner, lower carbon-emitting energy sources, and I know TVA is working to have fifty percent of its generation come from clean energy sources by 2020. That's why TVA has taken a national leadership role in nuclear power, and I was pleased to be part of TVA's decision to complete Unit 2 at the Watts Bar nuclear plant in Spring City, Tennessee.

I'm also interested in the success of TVA's important energy efficiency and demand response initiatives currently underway with its distributors and the growing partnership with private and public sector organizations to prepare for the arrival of electric cars.

I might add that in 1978, I installed solar panels on my house and am still running geothermal heat pumps. I also had all of my overhangs designed for maximum sun utilization in the winter and summer so I have believed in energy conservation for years.

I am honored to have served on the TVA Board, and appreciate your consideration for a second term. As I said four years ago at my confirmation hearing before this committee, I support TVA's mission, and continue to believe that the TVA Board will be thoughtful, objective, inquiring and deliberate about issues facing TVA.

I am grateful for your consideration of my nomination, and thank you for the opportunity to be with you today.