Testimony by Douglas Weaver
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Thank you, Chairman Capito, Ranking Member Whitehouse and members of this committee for the opportunity to discuss how my years of nuclear experience can help the Nuclear Regulatory Commission meet this moment. I also want to thank President Trump for nominating me.

I want to recognize my family - my wife Meg whose unwavering love and support make this possible, my three sons -- Seth and Matthew who are here today, and JD who is following from Case Western Reserve University --, and my mother Frances, at home in Pennsylvania, whose faith at age 92 continues to inspire me.

Today I am reminded of the first time I came to Washington seeking approval for a new role. Just after I completed my sophomore year of college, I came here to interview with the late Admiral McKee to serve as an officer in the Navy's nuclear power program. That turned out to be day-one of what would become 29 years of combined military and federal civilian service, including 20 years at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Coming before the Committee today brings me full circle and, if confirmed, presents one more opportunity to serve our great Nation.

My career has had three distinct phases. First, my initial training and operating experience in the Navy where I learned the fundamentals of nuclear power and what it means to safely operate and maintain a reactor. Second, at the NRC where I trained to be a nuclear safety regulator, how to apply the regulatory framework in various situations, and ultimately the policy setting process when I served as an advisor to former NRC Chairman Klein. Third, was my work in the private sector. After I left federal service, I ultimately led the global regulatory affairs organization for Westinghouse Electric Company. I sit before you with a lifetime of nuclear safety experience that provides a solid foundation to serve on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Since leaving the NRC 13 years ago, I've worked in the private sector as a leader and advisor assisting companies navigating the NRC's regulatory landscape for both reactors and fuel cycle facilities. Looking at the NRC from the perspective of an applicant and licensee has given me a clear understanding of the challenges faced by the industry when seeking NRC approvals.

At a time when America seeks energy independence and climate solutions, nuclear technology stands at a critical juncture. While the NRC's safety record is exemplary, in today's rapidly evolving energy landscape the NRC must match safety excellence with regulatory agility.

While NRC must act more expeditiously, speed cannot come at the cost of compromising safety. Safety must remain the NRC's top priority, but it must be achieved in a more efficient manner, for example, by placing a greater emphasis on risk-informed decision-making. The NRC is already changing for the better, as I've seen in my interactions with the NRC staff in the year prior to my nomination.

If confirmed, I will work with the current members of the Commission to continue to effectively implement both the ADVANCE Act and Executive Order 14300 in a manner that maintains public trust

and meets the needs of the Nation. I commit to leveraging my nuclear safety experience to help build an NRC that's both uncompromisingly safety-focused and strategically efficient. The American people deserve nothing less than excellence in nuclear regulation.

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today and I look forward to your questions.