Statement of Commissioner Bradley Crowell
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
April 19, 2023

Chair Carper, Ranking Member Capito, and distinguished members of the Committee – thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Since taking office last year, I've had the pleasure of building positive working relationships with my fellow Commissioners. It has been apparent that a genuine spirit of collegiality among the Commission forms the foundation for successfully executing the NRC's mission with maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

Strong collegiality is further enhanced when operating with the full complement of Commissioners. With five members since last August, the Commission has made progress on pivotal issues related to the existing reactor fleet while also forging ahead on establishing a responsible regulatory framework to support the next generation of nuclear technologies.

Chair Hanson highlighted these topics in his testimony and many other notable recent accomplishments by the NRC, while also emphasizing the robust work schedule ahead for Fiscal Year 2024 and beyond.

The NRC has a central role in the future viability of nuclear energy, both in the U.S. and abroad. As the nation's regulator for the safe and secure operation of civilian nuclear technologies, the NRC is committed to ensuring the public can have confidence that all NRC licensees operate in manner that minimizes risk and maximizes safety.

The foundational mission of the NRC must always be the uncompromising protection of public health and safety, security, and the environment. But this mission can no longer be applied through the narrow lens that has been used in past decades at the NRC.

The NRC must quickly adapt to embrace the shared responsibility of our nation's collective effort to address climate change and energy security. The potential for nuclear energy

to make a meaningful and enduring contribution to reducing carbon emissions and stabilizing our energy grid is real. But in doing so, time is of the essence and there is much to accomplish across the full NRC mission space.

To be successful, the NRC must embrace a contemporary sense of purpose that embodies the challenges and opportunities before us.

As an essential part of this effort, the NRC must restore, build, and maintain public trust through proactive and meaningful interactions with the public, other governmental organizations, and the full spectrum of stakeholders.

The NRC must also maintain a commitment to safely regulating the full fuel cycle by asserting commensurate focus on issues from mining to waste in its regulatory decisions and research activities. Proactive engagement on used fuel management, decommissioning, and waste disposal is critical to enhancing public confidence.

I am excited by the challenge of what we can, and must, accomplish by the end of this decade. But we must get to work now and maintain this level of commitment in subsequent years to succeed. I am confident the NRC staff is up to the challenge.

The FY ‘24 budget request is an important next step to ensure we have the resources necessary to meet this pivotal moment. Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.