Statement of Randy Jones

Nominee to the Tennessee Valley Board of Directors

Before the

U.S Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

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Thank you, Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse, and members of the committee. It is a privilege to appear before you today, and I am deeply honored to have been nominated by President Trump to serve on the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors.

I come before you not only as a fifty year resident of Guntersville, Alabama, but as someone who has seen firsthand the vital role the Tennessee Valley Authority plays in balancing the three E's: Energy, Environment, and Economic Sustainability.

TVA's original mission was to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable power, and that mission remains just as critical today. I live on the Guntersville Reservoir in Marshall County, Alabama. In 1935, David Lilenthal, a TVA Board Member, addressed a crowd to hopefully alleviate the anxiety of local farmers and businessmen about the upcoming TVA project, the Guntersville Dam. That meeting was a success and one week later the citizens of Marshall County voted for complete cooperation with the project.

The completion of the dam has been cited as the most important event in the history of Marshall County. On November 6, 1939, the Birmingham News reported that "Guntersville is having a huge industrial expansion." The reporter quoted the Chamber of Commerce president who stated that power rates in Guntersville were reduced 30% because of the dam. Even now, our residential power rates remain 30% below those of neighboring providers.

Hydroelectricity—the original renewable resource—still supplies about nine percent of TVA's power.

Facilities like the Racoon Mountain Pumped Storage Plant prove that energy production facilities can coexist with environmental preservation, as the land surrounding this facility is now designated as a state wildlife observatory and produces 1,650 megawatts of power.

TVA provides power to 153 local power suppliers who in turn service over 10 million customers. From the largest to the smallest, these local power suppliers embody the standard of safety and service.

I have had the privilege of serving on the City of Guntersville Electric Board since 2000. This is one of the smaller local power companies TVA serves. It has given me a greater understanding of the importance of strong partnerships between TVA and the local power companies, and as well as the unique challenges those of us serving small, rural populations face.

Also, for the past 18 years I've served on the Board of Trustees for Jacksonville State University which is a regional school in northeast Alabama serving over 10,000 students. And for the past 6 years, I've served as Chairman overseeing a budget of $200 million dollars. In fact, Forbes just rated the university as the number one employer domiciled in the state of Alabama.

I've also had the honor to serve on statewide Boards over the years appointed by numerous Alabama Governors.

The day I became Chairman at Jacksonville State I realized that we are responsible to make sure our students hard-earned tuition dollars are spent wisely to ensure a degree from this University has value.

And my driving philosophy for this is passion, humility of where we came from, and integrity in all that we do.

And I want to bring that same philosophy to the TVA Board. Where we can see any ratepayer, and they know we are good stewards of their hard-earned money to support them and generations to come.

Living in Guntersville, I witness daily the natural beauty of our reservoirs. Bald eagles and ospreys, once endangered, are now abundant. White pelicans migrate through our waters, and anglers travel from across the nation to fish our lakes, widely considered among the best bass waters in the country. Protecting this environment is inseparable from protecting our economy.

Our region in North Alabama is experiencing unprecedented growth. From Toyota to Google to Blue Origin to Redstone Arsenal, NASA, and defense companies, industries are investing here because of our affordable and dependable power grid and on a navigable river system.

But while we welcome high-tech data centers and defense industry growth, we must never lose sight of families who receive a power bill every month; like the grandmother in Asbury, Alabama raising two grandchildren on $800 a month. For her, a 10 percent rate hike could mean the difference between paying a bill or putting food on the table. Economic sustainability means ensuring that every decision balances opportunity with affordability for the people served.

In closing, the decisions made by TVA today must stand the test of time. These are choices with consequences that will shape our region for the next 100 years. If confirmed, I am committed to focusing on energy reliability, environmental stewardship, and economic sustainability and ensuring that TVA will continue to fulfill its original mission and improve the lives of generations to come. Thank you.