

Statement of  
William Bookless  
Before the United States Senate  
Committee on Armed Services  
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Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Reed, distinguished members of the committee, it is an incredible privilege to appear before you today. I am honored and grateful for this opportunity to serve my country. I thank President Trump, Secretary Perry and Under Secretary Gordon-Hagerty for placing their confidence in me, putting forward my nomination as Principal Deputy Administrator of the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

Mr. Chairman, if you will allow me, I would first like to introduce and thank my family who are here today and those that were unable to attend, but watching from afar. I would like to introduce my daughter, Alexandra, and her husband, Michael, who are here with us. Alexandra is my oldest child and her birth – one year after I finished my PhD – reinforced my need to do everything I can to ensure the safety and security of the nation and its citizens. My daughter Stephanie is watching from Chicago with her fiancé, Chris. The love and support of my family has been a profound source of strength for me throughout my career. Watching from California is my wife of nearly 44 years, Stacy. Her unwavering support during my long hours of work and extensive travel has allowed me to focus on the important issues that our country faced and continues to confront today. When this

opportunity arose, she did not hesitate to once again back my decision to return to the service of our nation. Her unconditional love and support have made it possible for me to be here with you today.

It has been a special privilege to work in the nuclear security enterprise for over 35 years. If confirmed as Principal Deputy Administrator, I will have the honor to serve again with the highly talented and dedicated men and women of the National Nuclear Security Administration. The men and women of NNSA work every day to maintain the safety, security, reliability, and effectiveness of the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile; reduce the threat of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism worldwide; and provide nuclear propulsion for the U.S. Navy's fleet of aircraft carriers and submarines.

The work performed at NNSA is vital to our nation's national security and international stability. Having an effective, responsive, and resilient nuclear weapons infrastructure is necessary for maintaining a credible nuclear deterrent, assuring our allies and partners, and enabling the United States' capacity to hedge against an uncertain future. One of my priorities, if confirmed, will be to support Under Secretary Gordon-Hagerty in her efforts to ensure the effective execution of the diverse work that is ongoing across our nuclear complex, including the

recapitalization and reconstitution of the enterprise's infrastructure. This work enables the United States to respond to the evolving international security environment, which is far more complex than at any time since the end of the Cold War.

Recruiting, retaining, and growing the nuclear security enterprise's outstanding workforce is another one of my priorities, if confirmed. I think having the right people with the right skills in the right places is essential to accomplishing the NNSA's missions. Having worked with a number of NNSA's talented scientists, engineers, and safety experts in the field of nuclear weapon design and testing, environmental health and safety management, and nuclear security policy development I can say that I have had the privilege of witnessing this first hand over the course of my career. I look forward to having the opportunity to work with the Under Secretary, labs, and plants to identify innovative ways to accomplish this priority.

Another priority I have, if confirmed, is to carry out the vision expressed by Under Secretary Gordon-Hagerty to ensure that the proper management and governance structures are in place to accomplish NNSA's nuclear security missions. Having clear accountability and strong program management focused on mission

deliverables is critical to both maintaining and achieving a modern and appropriately tailored nuclear deterrent.

As has been highlighted previously by members of this committee, the foundation of our national security is at a crossroads. If confirmed, I will work tirelessly to ensure that NNSA is providing the tools to support our national security needs. I look forward to working with each of you in achieving that mission and protecting our great nation.

I thank you again for inviting me to appear before you today and for your continued support of the National Nuclear Security Administration's important missions. I am prepared to answer any questions you have.