

**Statement of
Jeffrey Marootian**

**Nominee for Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
United States Department of Energy**

**Before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
United States Senate**

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Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso, and distinguished members of the Committee. Thank you for the privilege to testify before you today and for considering my nomination to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the Department of Energy. I am humbled by the confidence that President Biden and Secretary Granholm have placed in me with this nomination, and I am enthusiastic about the opportunity, if confirmed, to work with this Committee, with my colleagues in the Biden-Harris Administration and with the truly phenomenal team of dedicated professionals in the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

My great grandparents came to this country from Armenia in search of freedom and opportunity. They settled in the New York and New Jersey area where they proudly pursued the American dream. My parents and grandparents instilled in me the importance of not only loving our country but demonstrating that commitment through civic participation and public service. My grandmother, a New York City public school teacher, and my grandfather, a Navy veteran, exemplified that commitment — teaching me that the most important thing I could do was to contribute to society through service to my community. It was that example that not only led me to pursue a path in government but defined the values that I still carry with me to this day, as I sit in front of this committee.

I would be remiss if I also did not acknowledge that I am here because of the many LGBTQ pioneers that have served in public roles before me. It is because of their leadership and courage that barriers have been broken and I am able to proudly serve my country.

I have had the distinct honor of serving in two Presidential Administrations and at the local government level here in our nation's capital. I am grateful to former Transportation Secretary, Anthony Foxx, for empowering me to serve as an Assistant Secretary and Chief Sustainability Officer during the Obama-Biden Administration and to DC Mayor Muriel Bowser for entrusting me to lead the city's transportation department.

In these roles I was tasked with overseeing cross-cutting public infrastructure projects, partnering with industry to deploy new and emerging sustainable technologies, and working to reduce carbon emissions across multiple sectors. While overseeing the District Department of Transportation, I focused on taking steps to lower costs for individuals and families, creating jobs and economic opportunity, fostering innovation and improving the quality of our

environment. While serving as the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Chief Sustainability Officer at the United States Department of Transportation, I oversaw the effort to improve energy efficiency and reduce waste throughout the agency's public buildings and facilities portfolio. I also managed the administration of research and development grants and took steps to improve upon the Department's use of renewable power.

Having served for much of my career at the state and local level, I am keenly aware of the importance of providing high quality technical assistance while taking a collaborative approach when working with state and municipal officials. I am also deeply committed to ensuring transparency, being a good steward of public dollars and being responsive to the issues and concerns brought forward by industry leaders and advocates. If confirmed, I look forward to bringing these principles and lessons learned — and the values of public service instilled in me by my family — to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Thanks in large part to the leadership and work of this committee, the Department has more resources than ever before to create jobs, spur innovation and improve communities across this country. This historic investment will help drive state of the art American led technology and innovation in our manufacturing sector and improve our energy security and independence, which is critical now more than ever. It will support the Department's efforts to fund research in a wide array of renewable technologies with the goal of increasing grid reliability and reducing the monthly costs for everyday Americans. And these resources will strengthen the agency's ability to advance technologies such as battery storage, biofuels, and hydrogen fuel cells that will continue to strengthen America's competitive edge.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with my colleagues at the Department of Energy and with this Committee to continue to further cost-effective clean energy solutions while making our energy more secure, creating jobs and catalyzing investment in the American economy.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today. I look forward to answering your questions.