

Statement of Jonathan Elkind

**Nominee to be
Assistant Secretary for International Affairs
U.S. Department of Energy**

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

December 12, 2013

Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Murkowski, members of the Committee: I am grateful for the opportunity to appear today as you consider my candidacy to be the Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs.

I am honored to have been nominated for this post by President Obama. I also deeply appreciate the confidence that Secretary Moniz has expressed by asking me to serve in this capacity.

I would like to introduce and thank my wife of twenty-five years, Suzanne Mintz, and two of our three sons who are here with me today, Benjamin and Noah. Our third son, Sam, is completing a college semester abroad.

In 2009, I was appointed as the Department of Energy's (DOE) Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs. This was my second professional association with the Department, but by coincidence my family's prior ties to DOE go back to my childhood. My father was a researcher who worked on cancer treatment and carcinogenesis. He spent portions of the 1960s and 1970s at the Brookhaven and Argonne National Laboratories that are now operated by DOE – in those days by the Atomic Energy Commission and later the Energy Research and Development Agency.

The fact that I am before you today, however, had more to do with my dad's attitudes about career choice than with the mere fact that I have known DOE and its precursors since childhood. When I was an undergraduate, my dad counseled me to find a professional niche that I felt passionate about, a place where I would *want* to make a contribution because of my own fascination with the issues at hand. Whether I made that contribution as a business person, an academic, or a government official wasn't central. His advice was essentially: Do what you love, and love what you do.

For a little more than twenty-five years, I have focused on international energy issues with that backdrop. I first worked on energy and environment issues in the federal government when I

served at the Council on Environmental Quality under President George H.W. Bush. I served subsequently through the 1990s at positions in the Department of Energy, the Office of the Vice President, and the National Security Council staff. Later, I worked as a private energy consultant and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

From these experiences, I know how important it is for the United States to work effectively with international partners on energy issues. We need strong international partnerships that allow us to understand where markets are heading, where there are opportunities for U.S. businesses, and where breakthroughs and flash points can emerge.

I am proud of the progress we have made on many of these fronts during my current tenure at the Department, including establishing collaborations like the Clean Energy Ministerial and the International Partnership on Energy Efficiency Cooperation. These key partnerships have helped us to identify and share best practices in low-carbon energy technologies. Other bilateral engagements such as the U.S.-China Clean Energy Research Center and the U.S.-India Joint Clean Energy R&D Center are helping us forge new research partnerships and establish commercial ties on topics like carbon capture and sequestration, buildings energy efficiency, and next-generation biofuels.

If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed by the Senate, these are some of the areas that will be my focus. I also look forward to working with this Committee to identify additional opportunities to advance our energy economy. I hope to secure your support so that I might have that opportunity.