

**Statement of
Gene Rodrigues**

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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, I thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today.

I feel both blessed and humbled to have been nominated to serve as Assistant Secretary of Energy for the Office of Electricity. My father served our nation as a career soldier and a combat veteran, and my mother left the country of her birth to become a naturalized U.S. citizen. I fully recognize that the calling to serve our country is not just a civic duty, it is a high honor and a profound privilege. If my parents were still with us today, I know they would be very proud that their son aspires to serve the American people in such an important role.

I will focus my testimony on just two key points: how the last thirty-two years of my professional career have prepared me for the responsibility of leading the Office of Electricity, and, if confirmed, how I would ensure the Office fulfills its critical mission of providing our nation a secure, reliable, and resilient energy delivery system that provides every American with access to abundant and affordable energy to power our homes, our businesses, and our economy.

My life's work within the energy industry has been focused on matters directly related to the mission of the Office of Electricity. For example, during my nearly twenty-four years at one of our nation's largest electric utilities, I oversaw customer programs that provided resource adequacy, customer affordability, emissions reduction, economic development, and system reliability, including research, development, and demonstration activities on emerging technologies. Following my time inside the utility, I spent the next eight years in consulting where I shared my lessons learned with other utilities, local governments, and state and federal agencies, including the Department of Energy. And, all throughout my three decades in the energy field, I have accepted and embraced leadership roles within organizations committed to meeting the energy, economic, and environmental challenges of today, while preparing our industry for the future.

Each of these professional experiences – and many more that I won't have time to touch upon today – have indelibly ingrained in me the conviction that, for us to be truly effective in navigating the transformational opportunities and unprecedented challenges of developing a 21st century grid, it will take much more than just the expertise of any one person, or any one agency for that matter. As our energy network becomes increasingly complex and dynamic, we must

ensure reliability, resiliency, and security across the entire energy system. And while there are tremendous opportunities for technological advancement, we must address the accompanying uncertainty and vulnerabilities with equal consideration and urgency. To lead the way, we must now think, plan, invent, invest, and operate in ways that are more inclusive, collaborative, and coordinated than ever before. This is why I am grateful to have earned the trust of a great many of the industry stakeholders who will play an indispensable role in the modernization and decarbonization of America's grid.

It has been my privilege to work alongside industry leaders from the Edison Electric Institute, the National Association of State Energy Officials, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the Smart Energy Power Alliance, and the GridWise Alliance, among many others. These nonpartisan organizations know me well and supported my nomination for this important role. Similarly, the bipartisan Alliance to Save Energy recently honored me with their Charles H. Percy Award for Public Service, which celebrates reaching across the political aisle to accomplish results for the benefit of all Americans.

In closing, I commit to you that, if I am fortunate enough to be granted the responsibility of leading the Office of Electricity, we will remain clear-eyed and pragmatic about assessing the challenges ahead and we will engage industry and innovation stakeholders to work side-by-side with us as we develop, demonstrate, and deploy solutions for America's energy delivery network. And, on every step of the way, we will never lose sight of the imperative to create and sustain good-paying American jobs and serve the American people.

I look forward to answering any questions you may have and, if I am confirmed, to working closely with each of you on our shared mission of fostering the continued technological, economic, and environmental leadership of our great nation.

Thank you.