

Statement of
Samuel T. Walsh
Nominee for the Position of General Counsel,
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, distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you very much for the opportunity to appear before you today. It is a great honor to be here.

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to President Biden for asking me to serve as General Counsel of the United States Department of Energy. If confirmed, I would work hard to justify the confidence he has placed in me to serve in that role.

I also want to thank Secretary Granholm, for her confidence in asking me to serve as her counsel. I would be privileged to advise the Secretary and her team as they work to advance the Department's vital mission.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Elisabeth, my children, June and Miles, and my family and friends, both near and far, for their love and support.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, the General Counsel is the principal legal officer of the Department. The General Counsel provides legal advice to the Secretary and her team, represents the Department before other Federal agencies, and works with the Department of Justice to represent the Department in the federal courts. Put simply, the General Counsel is responsible for ensuring that the Department follows the law.

Thankfully, the General Counsel does not do this alone. The Department has a dedicated and knowledgeable staff of attorneys. I had the great pleasure of working alongside this group for over six years. If confirmed, I would look forward to working with them again, learning from them again, and once again drawing on their deep expertise in the service of the Department.

I have spent my career in the field of energy law. After graduating from Harvard Law School, I had the privilege to serve as a law clerk for Judge David Tatel on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. I then worked in the energy group of a law firm called Hogan & Hartson, which later became Hogan Lovells. In 2010 I joined the Department of Energy as an advisor to the General Counsel. I stayed at the Department through 2016, and during that time was promoted first to Associate General Counsel and then to Deputy General

Counsel for Energy Policy in 2014. As Deputy General Counsel for Energy Policy, I had responsibility for legal issues arising from the Department's electricity, fossil energy and civilian nuclear programs.

Since 2017 I have been a partner at Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis, here in Washington D.C. At the firm I have built a practice advising clients on energy regulatory issues and representing them before federal and state agencies and in the federal courts.

Mr. Chairman, I have learned from my experience at the Department how important it is to have open lines of communication with Congress. If confirmed, I will make myself available to the Members of this Committee, your staffs, and your colleagues throughout Congress. I hope that, if confirmed, you will find me to be responsive and collegial partner, and one that is straightforward in my interpretation of the Department's legal authorities.

Mr. Chairman, thank you and the Committee once again for the opportunity to appear before you. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.