

Opening Statement of Dan Brouillette, Nominee for U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, May 25, 2017

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, members of the committee, and to the professional staff of the committee and your individual offices, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you as the President's nominee to be Deputy Secretary of Energy. Each of you have been extremely generous with your time and gracious with your wise counsel. It has been a pleasure to learn of your specific policy interests, as well as your experiences with and expectations of the Department. Thank you. I would also like to thank the President and Secretary Perry for the confidence they have placed in me with this nomination. It is humbling and, if I am fortunate enough to be confirmed to this important position, I look forward to working with them and with you to advance our nation's energy and national security interests.

As important a position as this is within our government, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention another very important position I already hold, perhaps even more important, and that is as a husband and a father. Madam Chairman, with your approval I'd like to introduce my family to the committee. With me today are my incredible wife and best friend of 28 years, Adrienne, and our nine children, Stephen, along with his wife Lauren, Julia, Danielle, Sam, Catherine, Jackie, Joelle, Adelaide, and Christopher. Also with me are my mom, Deanna Brouillette Gaudet, two of my sisters-in-law, Karen Kornfeld and Laura Brouillette, and many, many friends and colleagues we consider our family. It is never lost upon me that without their selfless support I would not be here today.

If confirmed to this position, it will be the third time in a three-decade career I will take an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States. My path here leads through the United States Army, where as a young tank commander in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment we served in the "Fulda Gap", then the "furthest frontier of freedom" and front line of our Nation's effort to deter Soviet nuclear and conventional aggression, to service as an Assistant Secretary of the US Department of Energy, as a congressional staffer to US Rep W.J. "Billy" Tauzin and later as Staff Director of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, to service in the senior executive ranks of two iconic American corporations: Ford Motor Company and USAA.

In each of these roles I have been fortunate to work with and learn from visionary and truly capable leaders. For cavalry troopers around the world, Lieutenant General and now National Security Advisor HR McMaster is a modern-day Patton. Chairman Tauzin taught me the importance of bipartisanship. In this room, several chairs of this committee have served as informal mentors: Senators Murkowski, Bingaman, Johnston, Landrieu, and Domenici. At Ford and USAA, I was honored to serve next to individuals who helped develop market technologies we now take for granted: adaptive cruise control, hybrid vehicle power systems, and remote deposit capture, a technology invented by USAA that allows the use of smart devices to deposit funds into our banking accounts. Additionally, at USAA I have had the extreme privilege of serving our country's military community at times they needed us most: during the difficult moments that follow either a natural catastrophe or personal tragedy.

These experiences are diverse and varied, just as the Energy Department itself. Each experience has prepared me for the dynamic challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Additionally, my tenure as Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs gave me extraordinary exposure to the work of this incredible department. With its 17 National Laboratories, the Department plays the central role in advancing America's leadership in scientific research and development, energy technology, and nuclear security. Collectively these labs comprise the most comprehensive research network of its kind in the world, and over 100 Nobel Prizes are directly associated with their work. Their continuous improvement of enabling technologies such as particle accelerators, high-performance computing, and the modeling of complex physical systems have led to entirely new areas of research within the scientific community. Anyone benefitting from an MRI, or medical treatments newly available because of our deeper understanding of genomics, can likely attribute those successes to work done by a scientist in a DOE laboratory. The labs are also critical to maintaining our strong national defense posture. Since the commencement of the Manhattan Project the Department has maintained a safe, secure, reliable and militarily effective nuclear weapons stockpile.

The labs can and do also play a crucial role in ensuring the reliability of our electric grid and protecting against cyber security attacks. I intend to work with Secretary Perry to develop and implement enhanced security measures where necessary and to assist with resilience efforts, so that Americans can depend on stable sources of power. I will draw upon my military experience, as well as my prior experience at the Department of Energy and in the private sector, to help organize emergency response personnel to handle disasters effectively and efficiently.

If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, I look forward to working as the Deputy Secretary - along with the members of this Committee, Secretary Perry and the incredible workforce at DOE - to address the wide array of opportunities and challenges facing a Department with expanding obligations and tightening budgets. Among those challenges will be working with the Senate and the House to develop and implement appropriate budgets that will allow the Department's work on crucial science, research, national security and environmental management to move forward. The recent events at the Hanford complex remind us of the importance of prioritizing the work of the Department. I stand firmly committed to the mission at Hanford, as does the new Administration, and, if confirmed, stand ready to lead with you the effort to see its ultimate completion.

Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell, thank you again for the opportunity to be here. I ask the committee for your favorable consideration of the President's nomination, and I look forward to your questions.