

Thank you Chairman Bingaman, Ranking Member Murkowski, Senator Hoeven, I am honored to be here today to appear before this committee. I also want to express my appreciation to President Obama for nominating me to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and thank you Chairman Bingaman and Ranking Member Murkowski for scheduling this hearing here today.

I also want to acknowledge and thank my two great senators from Iowa, who took the time today to introduce me, and just say how much I appreciate, admire and respect their many years of service to Iowans and this country. It is an honor to have them here on my behalf.

I am also pleased to be here with my fellow nominee to the FERC, Tony Clark. I have known Tony since I was on the Iowa Utilities Board in 2005, and I have a great respect for both his abilities and his long-time commitment to public service. I look forward, if given the opportunity, to serve with him at the Commission.

I've enjoyed my two years at the Commission. I'll enjoy even more having a full term in five years.

Let me just say, and I know we have a lot of issues that you want to talk about, so I'll make this brief and just say, I think the two years that I've had at the Commission; my four years as chairman of a state Public Service Commission; as senators noted I worked both in the district and on Capitol Hill for members of Congress; I've worked in the executive branch of state government and federal government; I have worked for the non-profit sector during the farm crisis in Iowa in the 1980s; I've owned my own business and ran my own business with 20-plus employees, so I get what it means to have government regulation; and, maybe most importantly, I grew up on a family farm in Iowa and consider my best degree to be in commonsense. Where you kind of learn that in the end, stuff has to work.

I bring that to this experience, and those many life experiences I think are an asset to being a regulator, to get different perspectives on what you do and how it impacts folks. Because we can talk about policy and due process and a number of factors in this regulatory arena, but when you throw physics on the table as well, in the end it has to work.

That's what I strive to do at FERC, is make this a reliable system that is as cost efficient and effective as possible. I will continue to strive to do that. I also, since my first month at the state commission in the state of Iowa and to this day, on my desk calendar I write at the top of that calendar the uncompleted sentence: "This decision benefits the consumer because..."

Every decision I make, I want to be able to provide a reasonable answer to that question. So that drives my thinking. How this benefits the consumer and how this helps maintain a reliable infrastructure for an energy system that is so important for our

economy and the health and safety of our citizens. And I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to have a full term to continue that work. Thank you very much.