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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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Good morning, Chairman Bingaman, Ranking Member Murkowski and distinguished members of this committee. It is a great honor and privilege to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be Assistant Secretary for the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability at the United States Department of Energy. I would like to thank Secretary Chu and the Department's senior leadership for their support. I would also like to take a brief moment to introduce and thank my husband of 20 years, James Hoffman, and our two sons, Michael and John, for their support.

I come before you today with great appreciation and respect for the magnitude and complexity of work that is required to advance the electric sector as well as to meet the commitment to respond to emergency events (all hazards) by providing critical assessment and recovery support.

I have worked at the Energy Department for fifteen years on a variety of technologies and programs in support of the electric sector, utilizing my Masters Degree in Ceramic Science and Engineering from Penn State University. During my time at the Department, I have been proud to work on investments and innovations that enhance our energy security and reliability, including through public-private partnerships, such as our efforts demonstrating an advanced industrial gas turbine. We successfully demonstrated a forty percent efficient turbine achieving the original design goals for the program[1]. Solar Turbines Incorporated went on to commercialize this technology as the Mercury ™ 50 product for distributed generation applications. This kind of work not only shows the potential of DOE investments in innovation, but it also shows the tangible results of our work on delivering electricity reliably to American consumers.

When Thomas Edison opened the Pearl Street Station in 1882 with a hundred kilowatt "Jumbo dynamo" distributed generator, he could hardly have foreseen the pivotal role electricity would play in the development of American society. Although the demand for electricity initially drove the station's construction, electricity ultimately stimulated and enabled technological innovations that reshaped America. Today, the availability of and access to electricity is something that Americans simply take for granted. While most people cannot describe what electricity is or where it comes from, we all recognize it as a vital and constant part of our daily lives, powering our personal electronics and heating our homes, supporting our transportation, financial, food and water systems, and helping maintain our national security.

[1] Report to Congress: Comprehensive Program Plan for Advanced Turbine Systems, July 1993. page 11.

Meeting our future electricity needs will require time, hard work, and multiple solutions. We will need to pursue a combination of options, including advanced generation and transmission technologies, demand response programs, and improved efficiency. That said, perhaps the greatest challenge will be in developing the appropriate network of wires, storage, and intelligent solutions to deliver electricity reliably, responsibly and efficiently. As this committee knows, transmission will be critical to bring the electricity from wind generation from the areas with strong wind resources to the densely populated demand centers of this country and if confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress on this challenge.

If confirmed, I will work for results, drawing on my experience at the Department in managing public-private partnerships. I pledge also to work closely with this Committee and with the Congress to address the myriad of state, regional and national electricity issues we face in a reasonable and equitable way. My goal will be to make measurable progress in integrating clean energy resources into the grid, while maintaining a reliable and secure electric system.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify this morning and if confirmed, to serve as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

I look forward to answering any questions that you may have.