

OPENING STATEMENT

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NOMINATION HEARING
UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, Members of the Committee, and Professional Staff, thank you for the opportunity to appear today as the Nominee for the position of Assistant Secretary for International Affairs at the U.S. Department of Energy.

It is an honor to appear before the Committee and I appreciate the confidence President Trump and Secretary Perry have shown in nominating me for this role.

First, I would like to introduce my family here today—my wife Dory Stacks who is my strength and support as I embark on this important task.

My career has largely been devoted to energy. I have spent more than three decades working on energy issues, over half of which have been devoted to public service. The majority of my federal service has been at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), originally as General Counsel and later as Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy and also in Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. In addition, I served as the Federal Inspector of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System and as a member of the President's Commission on Catastrophic Nuclear Accidents (Price-Anderson Commission).

Prior to my service at DOE, I worked at the U.S. Department of the Interior as Legislative Counsel. Before that, as a young lawyer, I worked on mining regulations and later on outer continental shelf issues.

Most recently I worked on various international issues in the private sector. I have worked for firms assisting nations exploring the possibility of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Specifically, I was involved in recommending legislative and regulatory structures that newcomer nuclear nations could adopt to ensure a commercial nuclear program could be developed to deliver nuclear energy safely and in compliance with international standards guaranteeing use for only peaceful purposes.

The work involved an in-depth understanding of the commercial aspects of the energy program and international treaties governing safety and non-proliferation. The projects further provided recommendations on gaining public acceptance by outreach and stakeholder engagement.

The Office of International Affairs has primary responsibility in the U.S. Department of Energy for international energy cooperation in energy, science, and technology.

The Assistant Secretary for International Affairs (IA) has the critical mission of advising the Secretary, Deputy Secretary and other relevant DOE leadership on strategic implementation of international energy policy. IA leads and develops the Department's bilateral and multilateral R&D cooperation and represents DOE and the U.S. Government in interagency processes, intergovernmental forums, and bilateral and multilateral proceedings that address the development and implementation of energy policies, strategies and objectives.

The Office of International Affairs, in conjunction and cooperation with the Departments of State and Commerce, will focus on leveraging America's world leadership in clean, safe, and affordable energy production to expand the U.S. commercial energy presence throughout the world. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that mission is achieved.

If confirmed, I look forward to bringing to bear all my experience gained over the course of an extensive career in the energy sector to serve the Department well in this role.

In addition, my background in business development and entrepreneurial activities will provide private sector expertise to the duties of the Office. And, with interagency cooperation, I believe that if confirmed I could help deliver enhanced international energy market participation for the benefit of the U.S. economy.

Again, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to appear today. If confirmed, look forward to working with the members of this committee and members of the staff in furthering the energy interests of the United States internationally.