

**Statement by Catherine R. Zoi**  
**Before the**  
**Committee on Energy and Natural Resources**  
**United States Senate**  
**June 2, 2009**

Chairman Bingaman, Ranking Member Murkowski, and distinguished Members of the Committee, it is an honor and a privilege to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee for Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. I am grateful to the President and to Secretary Chu for their confidence in entrusting me with this important and challenging assignment. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the members of this Committee and the talented leadership team at the Department of Energy to deliver on the President's vision of an energy future that is secure, economically robust and environmentally sound.

I would like to introduce my husband of nearly 22 years, Robin Roy, and my daughter Susha, who will be graduating from high school next week. Susha's big brother, Wyatt, is in exam period at Stanford and couldn't be here today.

I have been immersed in the energy field for over 25 years, working across energy resources on a range of issues in the private, public and non-profit sectors. As a young geologist I worked for an independent oil company, helping the exploration team identify new resource prospects. After studying natural gas markets and completing a graduate degree in engineering, I joined what was then the largest investor-owned utility in the country – Pacific Gas and Electric – and worked on a wide range of planning issues: cogenerating power from the vast enhanced oil recovery operations of California, pricing natural gas in newly deregulated markets, and demand forecasting that takes account of shifting technology and customer behavior. I later moved to Washington, where I worked as a consultant on electricity systems, helping utilities manage their generating resources and plan for future needs.

This broad experience in the private sector helped to inform the next phase of my career, working in the federal government. After joining the U.S. EPA, I was proud to lead the team that created the Energy Star program. A small team of committed government officials worked closely with private sector partners to help unlock what I still believe is the single largest untapped and immediate energy opportunity in this country: improved efficiency. On the strength of this vast potential for energy efficiency, in 1991 our team demonstrated to the White House of President George H. W. Bush that signing the International Climate Convention at the Earth Summit in Rio made sense for the nation – both economically and environmentally.

After serving in President Clinton's White House, I moved with my family to Australia – where I spent time in both the government and private sectors,

immersed in renewable energy start-ups, green power programs, sustainable urban planning and most recently, smart metering.

Returning to the United States, I made my first foray into the non-profit sector two years ago when former Vice President Gore asked me to be the founding CEO of his newly-formed Alliance for Climate Protection. Applying my management and start-up experience, I worked with the bipartisan board of directors to prepare a business plan, raise funds, hire staff, and build an education campaign that attracted over two million members.

After 25 years of broad professional experience in the energy field, I am extremely excited about the possibility of joining the Obama administration and bringing that experience to bear on the challenges we face today.

Meeting President Obama's energy and climate goals will require a broad range of energy resources, and I support his vision and Secretary Chu's vision for a more diverse, environmentally sustainable and economically productive energy system. That system will of course continue to rely on nuclear, coal, oil and natural gas for some time, but we also need to rapidly increase our reliance on energy efficiency and renewable energy. If I am confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the Department of Energy, it will be my goal to maximize our nation's use of these resources.

The potential is enormous. I strongly believe that increased use of both efficiency and renewables will not only improve our energy security and reduce carbon emissions – it will also spur innovation, restore U.S. leadership in these industries, and create jobs. The Recovery Act makes a significant down payment in this regard. By continuing to match our goals for clean energy with the need to grow our economy, we can direct investment into energy infrastructure that can be ramped up and deployed quickly and efficiently.

Federal leadership is essential to creating the conditions for meeting these goals. If confirmed, I look forward to joining Secretary Chu and my other DOE colleagues in working closely with the members of this committee. Together, we can craft energy solutions that serve the American people well, for this generation and for generations to come.