



Opening Statement
Nominations Hearing for Capuano and Petty
Chairman Lisa Murkowski
December 5, 2017

Good morning and welcome, everyone. The Committee will come to order.

We are here to consider two nominations this morning— Dr. Linda Capuano to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration and Dr. Tim Petty to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science.

Dr. Petty is a friend and trusted advisor to many of us, and we have benefited from his expertise on both water and science issues for quite some time. He is Senator Risch’s Deputy Legislative Director and he has also served as a legislative assistant covering many issues that come before this committee, including the western water and U.S. Geological Survey issues that will be part of his portfolio at the Department of the Interior.

When Dr. Petty is confirmed, it will actually mark his return to the “Water and Science Hallway” at Interior. That’s because he worked there during the Bush administration as a Deputy Assistant Secretary and for a time as the acting head of the office for which he is now nominated.

Dr. Petty is very well qualified and I think an excellent choice for this position. I look forward to filling out Secretary Zinke’s “water team.” And I recognize that having a team of professionals in place at Interior on these issues is important to many on our committee, not to mention millions of Americans living out west.

There are a lot of good things we can say about Dr. Petty, but I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge his connection to my home state—he earned his Ph.D. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, terrific. I’m sure we can all agree on him and his qualifications, but certainly his choice of doctoral programs clearly demonstrates his excellent judgment, so we acknowledge that.

We also will consider the nomination of Dr. Linda Capuano to be the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration at the Department of Energy. Dr. Capuano has broad experience in the energy and technology industries. She has held senior positions at a number of companies and cofounded a start-up venture that commercialized ceramic superconductor technology.

Dr. Capuano is currently a fellow at Rice University, in the Baker Institute for Public Policy’s Center for Energy Studies. She is also on the faculty of Rice’s Graduate School of Business. Her distinct qualifications and robust work history make her a good fit to be at the helm at EIA as we move toward American energy dominance.

I welcome you both to the committee, I thank you for your willingness to serve our nation. It would certainly be my hope and intention to move the nominations quickly, reporting you from the committee hopefully as soon as next week. I hope to confirm you both before Christmas, along with the other well-qualified Interior nominees who have been stuck on the Senate calendar now for several months—far longer than their predecessors in the previous administration. So we want to try to get these processed as soon as expeditiously as we can. So again, thank you both for being with us this morning, we will look forward to your comments.

I will now turn to Senator Cantwell for her comments this morning.

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