

Statement of Kevin M. Kolevar
Nominee to be Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability
Department of Energy

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
United States Senate
November 16, 2006

Mr. Chairman, Senator Bingaman, and members of the committee, it is a great honor for me to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability at the U.S. Department of Energy. I appreciate the committee holding this hearing and for considering my nomination. I also want to thank Secretary Bodman and Deputy Secretary Sell for being here this morning, and for recommending me to the President for this position. If confirmed, it would be my privilege to work with this Committee and the Congress, as well as my colleagues within the Bush Administration, to carry out the Department of Energy's many important responsibilities in electricity and energy reliability.

I would like to introduce my wife, Stephani Kolevar, my son Jake and my daughter Jessica. Stephani is my partner and best friend, and I would not be here today were it not for her constant encouragement and support. I would like to also introduce my parents, Robert and Judy Kolevar, and my siblings Brian and Kristin Kolevar. My mother and father spent their entire careers in service to the public; my father dedicated himself to law enforcement as a federal agent with the FBI, while my mother chose a career in medicine as a pediatric nurse. They instilled in me from my earliest memory a sense of civic duty and responsibility. It is because of them that I entered public service and why I seek to continue and help take on the great challenge of meeting this nation's energy needs reliably, efficiently, and with sensitivity to the environment.

I currently serve as the Director of the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, which was established in 2005 to lead the national efforts to modernize the electric grid; implement national policy to increase grid capacity and reliability; improve the security and resiliency of the energy infrastructure; and facilitate the recovery from disruptions in the energy sector.

Prior to this position, I served at the Department of Energy as the Chief of Staff to then Deputy Secretary Kyle McSlarrow and as a Senior Policy Advisor to Secretary Abraham. Before joining the Department of Energy, I spent over ten years serving as US Senate staff in the offices of Senators Spencer Abraham and Connie Mack. My work at the Department of Energy has given me a great appreciation for the importance and difficulty of the national missions undertaken by the Department. My decade of work in the Senate has ingrained in me the deepest respect and honor for this great institution.

In each of these capacities, I have worked with the staff of this Committee and some of the Committee's Members on a variety of matters. I look forward to continuing to work

with the Committee, in my present position and in the position of Assistant Secretary should I be confirmed. If confirmed as Assistant Secretary, I am committed to doing everything I can to work both within the Administration, with this Committee, and with the Congress to help the Department succeed in carrying out its missions.

In closing, I want to again thank President Bush and Secretary Bodman for the trust they have placed in me. I also want to thank the Committee for holding this hearing and considering my nomination. It would be an honor and a privilege for me to serve the American people in this position.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared statement. I would be glad to answer the Committee's questions at this time.