Prepared Statement of David T. Danielson
Nominee
Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Unites States Department of Energy
Before the
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate

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Chairman Bingaman, Ranking Member Murkowski, and distinguished members of the committee, it is a distinct honor and privilege to appear before you today as President Obama's and Secretary Chu's nominee for Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. I wish to thank Secretary Chu and President Obama for their support and confidence in recommending and nominating me. I also want to thank the Committee for considering my nomination.

Please allow me to start by introducing my parents, Paul and Margaret Danielson, who just flew in from California, and my girlfriend Margaret Cantrell. I want to thank them for all of their love and support.

I was born and raised in a middle class family in Salinas, California, where I attended public schools and developed a life-long love of math and science.

My love for math and science led me to pursue an undergraduate degree in Materials Science and Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. During my studies there, I became keenly aware of energy's critical role in America's national and economic security and the profound opportunity that exists for our nation to leverage its world class technical, entrepreneurial, and industrial talent to solve these challenges. Fully committed to meeting these challenges, I went on to pursue a PhD at MIT to develop cutting-edge new energy technologies.

While at MIT, I conducted research in solar power, taught courses on advanced energy technologies, and authored more than 20 scientific articles. In addition to my research, I founded the MIT Energy Club – a first-of-a-kind campus organization devoted to building a multi-disciplinary MIT energy community through an outcome-oriented, fact-based, technology-agnostic approach to solving our nation's energy challenges.

This Club became the largest, most active organization on campus, helped spawn the creation of MIT's Energy Initiative (a $325M energy research initiative that engages more than 270 MIT faculty researchers), and catalyzed the creation a network of more than 45 sister-clubs at top universities around the country with more than 10,000 student members.

After my time at MIT, I joined the private sector as an energy venture capitalist, co-founding the clean energy investment practice at General Catalyst Partners, a Boston-based venture capital firm with $1.7B under management. As a venture capitalist, I helped create

and grow American energy start-ups in various advanced energy technology areas including: advanced biofuels, natural gas, solar power, wind power, carbon capture and storage, and efficient lighting. While in venture capital, I also co-founded the New England Clean Energy Council, a non-profit organization that built a strong regional clean energy community and serves as a platform for effective public-private partnerships.

Two and a half years ago, I left the private sector to help establish the Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) as its first employee. At ARPA-E, I played a key role in establishing and building the core foundations of organizational, cultural, and operational excellence for this new agency. I am proud to say that ARPA-E is already yielding some very exciting early results.

As ARPA-E's first Program Director, I currently manage $100M in investments in 24 high-risk, high-impact R&D projects in next generation batteries for plug-in electric vehicles, grid-scale storage, next generation solar wafers, geothermal drilling, rare-earth free magnets, and waste heat capturing thermoelectric devices. With continued development and support, these ARPA-E projects could lead to the creation of whole new energy technology industries and American leadership in those industries.

All the things that make America unique put us in an incredibly strong position to create and lead the energy industries of the future: we have the world's best and most creative researchers in our universities and national labs and our entrepreneurial eco-system is second to none.

I believe that my technical and business background in a wide variety of clean energy fields has provided me with the experience and expertise necessary to lead the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). EERE has played a pivotal role in driving U.S. leadership to date in the emerging energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. Citing just one example, EERE support has been critical to the development of the batteries at the heart of today's hybrid electric vehicles, in addition to the batteries in both current and next generation plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. EERE's mission to provide American companies with a clean energy technology advantage has only become more urgent as countries like China have begun to dramatically scale up their investments in clean energy.

If confirmed, I look forward to applying my full energy and commitment to advancing America's strong and growing energy innovation ecosystem. I pledge to work closely with this committee to lower our dependence on foreign oil, decrease energy costs for American families and businesses, and re-invigorate the Nation's economy; all while providing a better environment for our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Murkowski, and members of the committee, I thank you again for considering my nomination. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee and others in the Congress as we pursue the common goal of securing America's energy future.

Thank you and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.