

Statement of William Lassiter Doffermyre
Nominee for the Position of Solicitor of the United States Department of the Interior
Before the United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
May 8, 2025

Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and distinguished members of the Committee:

It is an honor and privilege to appear here today as President Trump's nominee to serve as Solicitor of the United States Department of the Interior.

Before I begin, I would like to recognize and introduce the most important people in my life—my family. Here with me today is my oldest son William, daughter Perry, daughter Wynne, and my youngest son Hodges. They are my best friends and biggest supporters. I would also like to recognize my beautiful and wonderful wife, Bessie Liedtke Doffermyre—the love of my life and the greatest wife and mother imaginable. My sweet and always-supportive sister Julia Green is here, along with the woman who brought me into this world and raised me to be the person that I have become, my mom, Mary Doffermyre. I love you, Mom. Finally, I would like to recognize my late father, Everette “Bubba” Doffermyre, who I loved so very much, and who I trust is with us in spirit here today.

Thanks again to the members of this Committee for your warm welcome to my family, and thanks to all of you for your service and dedication to our great country. My inspiration to serve my country dates back many years ago when—completely out of the blue—I was asked to serve in one of the single most important positions at the White House. Thanks to my sweet wife Bessie, who was my girlfriend and working in the Bush 43 White House at the time, I was appointed to serve as the Easter Bunny at the 2006 White House Easter Egg Roll. As you can imagine, it was very hard to see out of the Bunny suit, and was hot and sweaty under all that fur. But, I assure you, that was a small price to pay for literally serving as the most important figure at the White House, even if just for an afternoon.

In all seriousness, I am truly honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve as Solicitor of the Department of the Interior if I am confirmed. Serving at the Department of the Interior would be a dream job for me in many ways. My very first job out of college was a whitewater rafting guide on the Snake River in and around Teton National Park. I lived in a two-room log cabin on the edge of the park, heated by nothing more than a woodburning stove, with a majestic view of the Grand Teton out of my loft window—a view I shared with a moose living in my backyard. When I wasn't guiding on the river, I spent my free time backpacking, fishing and skiing on some of America's most treasured public lands. If fortunate enough to be confirmed, please know that this former Snake River rafting guide will consider it the honor and privilege of a lifetime to serve as a faithful steward of “America's Best Idea,” our National Park system.

It would also be an honor and privilege of a lifetime to work with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service at the Department of the Interior. I love to hunt. I am an avid fly-fisherman. I love to hike. I love nature. I love to explore. And I especially love sharing all of these life-long

passions with my four children. I could not agree more with the great Teddy Roosevelt, when he observed that very few responsibilities of the federal government “compare in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us.”

Yet, above all else, the Department of the Interior’s responsibility for managing our nation’s vast energy resources is what landed me in this seat here today. For the past five years, I have had the privilege of working in Texas at one of America’s great energy companies, Energy Transfer. After spending over a decade as a D.C. attorney at Williams & Connolly, and then as General Counsel of an overseas development agency in the first Trump Administration, I decided to move down to Texas to work in the energy business—to work alongside the patriotic Americans who actually design, build and operate the critical infrastructure that fuels our economy and enables our way of life.

I learned a tremendous amount working in the energy business over the past five years. One lesson I learned all too well is that the energy emergency our nation currently faces is not due to a shortage of natural resources. From my perspective working in the private sector, the primary contributor to this energy emergency is our country’s byzantine state and federal regulatory framework that makes it far too easy to kill infrastructure projects with endless litigation, and far too hard to actually get shovels in the ground. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this Committee to fix our broken permitting system—to help ensure that our country has a transparent, predictable and efficient regulatory regime that not only *permits* but actually *promotes* the responsible buildout of our nation’s critical energy infrastructure.

I would like to conclude by giving all thanks and praise to God the Father and his Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ, who taught us all that “to whom much is given, much is required.” I feel so incredibly blessed to have been born a citizen of the greatest nation in the history of the world. This country has given me and my family so much that we feel it is incumbent upon us to give back to our great country in any way that we can. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this Committee to do just that.

Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and members of the Committee—thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to your questions.