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HEARING ON THE NOMINATIONS OF MITCH GRAVES, JEFF HAGOOD, RANDALL JONES, AND ARTHUR GRAHAM TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

OCTOBER 22, 2025

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COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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C O N T E N T S

Page

OCTOBER 22, 2025

OPENING STATEMENTS

Capito, Hon. Shelley Moore, U.S. Senator from the State of West Virginia 1
Whitehouse, Hon. Sheldon, U.S. Senator from the State of Rhode Island 2

WITNESSES

Blackburn, Hon. Marsha, U.S. Senator from the State of Tennessee 5
Hagerty, Hon. Bill, U.S. Senator from the State of Tennessee 6
Tuberville, Hon. Tommy, U.S. Senator from the State of Alabama 7
Graves, Mitch of Tennessee, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority 8
Prepared statement 10
Responses to additional questions from:
Senator Husted 12
Senator Whitehouse 12
Senator Sanders 14
Senator Markey 17
Senator Kelly 21
Hagood, Jeff of Tennessee, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority 22
Prepared statement 24
Responses to additional questions from:
Senator Husted 26
Senator Whitehouse 26
Senator Sanders 28
Senator Markey 31
Senator Kelly 34
Jones, Randall, of Alabama, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority 35
Prepared statement 37
Responses to additional questions from:
Senator Husted 40
Senator Whitehouse 40
Senator Sanders 42
Senator Markey 45
Senator Kelly 48
Graham, Arthur, of Florida, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority 49
Prepared statement 51
Responses to additional questions from:
Senator Husted 53
Senator Whitehouse 53
Senator Sanders 56
Senator Markey 58
Senator Kelly 61

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Letter to Senator Capito, Senator Whitehouse, Senator Lummis and Senator Kelly from Tennessee Valley Public Power Association 76
Letters to Senator Capito from:

Page

—Continued
Tower Ventures in support of John Mitchell Graves 78
Parkridge Health System in support of John Mitchell Graves 80
Charles A. Wagner III in support of L. Jeffrey Hagood 81
Letters to Senator Capito and Senator Whitehouse from:
Boys and Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley in support of Jeffrey Hagood 82
Hagood Moody Hodge PLC in support of Jeffrey Hagood 84
State of Alabama, Wills Ainsworth, Lt. Governor, in support of Randall Earlie Jones 88
City of Germantown, Tennessee in support of Mitch Graves 90
Memphis Light, Gas and Water, Rodney Cleek in support of Mitch Graves 92
Memphis Light, Gas and Water, Doug McGowen in support of Mitch Graves 93
Huntsville, Alabama in support of Randall Earlie Jones 94
Beasley Allen Law Firm in support of Randall Earlie Jones 96
Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives in support of Randall Earlie Jones 98
State of Alabama, Kay Ivey, Governor in support of Randall Earlie Jones 101
Jax State, Office of the President in support of Randall Earlie Jones 102
Auto Zone in support of Mitch Graves 104
Manufacture Alabama in support of Randall Earlie Jones 106
Congress of the United States, House of Representatives, Hon. David Kustoff in support of Mitch Graves 107
Electric Cities of Alabama in support of Randall Earlie Jones 108
Business Council of Alabama in support of Randall Earlie Jones 110
State of Tennessee, Bill Lee, Governor in support of Mitch Graves 111
Jefferson County Commission in support of Randall Earlie Jones 112
State of Alabama, Chris Beeker, Commissioner in support of Randall Earlie Jones 114
Phillip Fulmer in support of Jeff Hagood 116
State of Alabama, Nathaniel Ledbetter, Speaker of the House in support of Randall Earlie Jones 118
U.S. House of Representatives:
Hon. Robert B. Aderholt in support of Randall Earlie Jones 119
Hon. Dale W. Strong in support of Randall Earlie Jones 121
U.S. Senate, Hon. Rick Scott in support of Arthur Graham 122
Memphis Light, Gas and Water, Mike Pohlman in support of Mitch Graves 124
Letter to President Trump and distinguished members of the U.S. Senate from Chuck Fleischman 125

HEARING ON THE NOMINATIONS OF MITCH GRAVES, JEFF HAGOOD, RANDALL JONES, AND ARTHUR GRAHAM TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m. in room 562, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Shelley Moore Capito (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Senators Capito, Whitehouse, Wicker, Markey, Kelly, Schiff, Alsobrooks.

Also present: Senators Blackburn, Hagerty, Tuberville.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Senator CAPITO. The committee will come to order, and good morning to all of you. We will begin with our opening statements and our introductions. I want to thank everybody for being here.

As Senator Britt said, we will try to keep it under control. I said, oh, you Southerners, we just love to have a good time. Thank you all for being here.

Today we are going to hear from four nominees, Mitch Graves, Jeff Hagood, Randy Jones, and Art Graham, to serve as members of the TVA's, Authority's, Board of Directors, and it is well past time that we have had this hearing and started to fill up the Board of Directors with great talent. I look forward to learning more about each one of your goals and priorities today.

In 1933, Congress passed the Tennessee Valley Authority Act, which establishes the TVA as a federally owned public utility to serve the people of the Tennessee Valley across seven southeastern States. The law charges TVA with three primary roles: providing electricity, managing the Tennessee River system, and assisting with economic development efforts.

If confirmed, the nominees before us will be required to support and uphold each of these fundamental responsibilities of TVA, which have served the people of the Tennessee Valley very well for decades. In particular, I have seen the positive impacts of TVA's economic development efforts in the Appalachian region and hope the nominees will continue to prioritize those activities.

TVA's mission to provide affordable and reliable electricity is no small challenge and vital to the well-being of its customers. Today, TVA is the third largest electricity generator in the United States, providing energy to more than 10 million people and 800,000 businesses across the Tennessee Valley, in partnership with 153 local power companies.

The families and businesses that call the Tennessee Valley home fund TVA's operations through their energy bills, and in return, these customers expect affordable and reliable energy.

The Tennessee Valley is forecasted to, over the next decade, need a dramatic increase of between 30 and 80 percent of its current power generation capacity to meet rising demand. To meet this growing demand, the Board will have to make strategic long term investment decisions to ensure adequate future capacity while maintaining reasonable and affordable electricity bills for its customers. No small task.

However, to move forward with these vital planning and investment decisions, the TVA Board of Directors needs a quorum. Without a quorum, TVA is currently unable to conduct the full range of business necessary to support the people of the Tennessee Valley. Confirming these nominees to the Board will enable TVA to move forward with planning new power generation capacity, approving large power load applications to support economic development, and other important actions like approving the 2025 Integrated Resource Plan.

Now, turning to our witnesses today. First, we will hear from two nominees that call Tennessee home, Mr. Graves and Mr. Hagood. Mr. Graves is currently the CEO of West Cancer Center and has more than 30 years of experience in healthcare leadership positions. Mr. Graves also serves on the board of Memphis Light, Gas, and Water, of which he is a past chair.

Mr. Hagood is an attorney with a wide range of experiences in business across the legal, athletics, real estate, and agriculture industries.

Next, Mr. Jones of Alabama will deliver his testimony. Mr. Jones is the long-time owner of a highly successful insurance agency, and currently serves on the city of Guntersville's Electric Board.

Finally, we will hear from Mr. Graham from Florida, a chemical engineer by training. He brings 15 years of experience as a member, and three-time chair of the Florida Public Service Commission, and he is a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

The diverse backgrounds and experiences these nominees would bring to the Board will position TVA to make effective long-term decisions. I look forward to hearing more about each nominee's priorities for the Board and how they would work to have a positive impact for the people of the Tennessee Valley.

With that, I will recognize my Ranking Member, our Ranking Member, Senator Whitehouse, for his opening statement and then we will go to introductions.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Before I get to TVA, I want to discuss permitting reform for a minute. You and I both want permitting reform, as do colleagues on the Democratic and Republican sides. All sorts of interest groups are pitching me on permitting reform. There is a lot to fix, and I am happy to and will continue to engage in these conversations, not just with you but also with our colleagues on the Energy Committee.

Remember what I warn constantly about: trust. Why would we want to do bipartisan permitting reform during an administration that will not faithfully execute that law, that cannot be trusted? Trust matters. The Trump administration is busily destroying any hope of that trust with unrelenting and often illegal assaults on clean energy.

Off my State, they dropped an illegal stop work order on a project nearing completion, with $4 billion invested and every permit in place. Listen to this: when whoever it was at Moscow Central demanded the illegal stop work order, government lawyers had to go into court and reverse arguments they had been making in that same courthouse about that same project, just weeks earlier. The exact opposite arguments.

Of course, they got crushed. From a trust perspective, where is the good faith there? It is gangster-gang show quality stuff.

Two weeks ago, Interior canceled environmental review on America's largest solar energy project. The Energy Executive Order contends that solar and wind energy are not even energy. Even the dictionary is violated.

This is kind of bureaucratic Al Capone quality stuff. It is very hard to find a glimmer of good faith.

The administration's kill list of clean energy projects starts with projects in Blue States, but just wait, the full list targets Red States as well. They have already pulled the permits in Red States like Lava Ridge Wind in Idaho.

On Monday, Secretary Burgum declared that he had no interest in including offshore wind in a permitting reform proposal. Well, guess what? Unless the illegal acts stop, and unless offshore wind is included, good luck with the trust required for a permitting deal.

Where are my Senate Republican colleagues? It used to be your stated principle that government should not be weaponized, that government should not pick winners and losers, that regulators should be honest and not take private property, and that lawful permits should be honored.

Now, everyone is mute while government is weaponized, picks winners and losers, illegally damages private interests who have lawful permits, all because what? The picked winner is the fossil fuel industry? Just think about that a moment, when the winds change and your favorite industry is not the picked winner anymore, do you really want the lawless America, the pay-to-play America of this administration?

The Republican Party has long claimed to be the party of free market capitalism, yet you seem fine with this level of government interference in free enterprise. Stop Work Trump's interference in all these projects is not just putting thousands of hard-working Americans out of a job, it is raising the cost of capital for all projects, even fossil fuel projects.

Folks, this is what the founding fathers meant when they talked about corruption. When the government comes in and shuts down a lawful project to please its political donors, we are no longer in the United States of America, we are in Venezuela. Colleagues, I will keep working in good faith on the substance of permitting reform. I promise you that.

That gate I have said we will need to get through, that trust check, is looking increasingly implausible. Without a drastic change in behavior I am not seeing a pathway to that trust. Without perhaps even some change in personnel, I am not seeing a pathway to that trust.

If that is fine with all of you, well, keep it up. Do not blame me when permitting reform crashes and burns because all trust, all rule of law, has crashed and burned.

By the way, if that is lost, that is going to affect highway bills, Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) bills, all sorts of other legislation that requires trust in the faithful execution of the laws.

On the nominees to govern the TVA, which by statute must maintain national leadership and technological innovation in low-cost power and environmental stewardship, the Trump administration is on course to technological devolution, higher-cost power and environmental destruction with fewer jobs and less accountability but more reward for fossil fuel mega-donors.

If you know how grids work, it is easy to see how reducing clean power requires more expensive polluting units to be dialed up to meet projected demand, especially as demand surges from data centers. That cost increase comes from ratepayer pockets, hammering people's electric bills.

There have been bright spots. In 2024, more than half of TVA's electricity came from zero-carbon sources like nuclear, hydroelectric and renewables. TVA has led the charge on deploying advanced reactors and plans deployment of 10 gigawatts of solar by 2035. It has retired or announced retirement of 86 percent of its polluting, expensive coal fleet. It has approved nearly 5 gigawatts of new natural gas generation since 2019, without carbon offset or removal.

My question is, will the nominees before us advocate for TVA's customers or will they roll over for Trump administration schemes to build or extend expensive, polluting fossil plants to help out the big Trump donors at ratepayer expense?

Will Tennessee Valley ratepayers pay the price for that with higher utility bills, medical expenses, and housing and insurance costs as climate change fuels more and more costly disasters?

The nominees appear here under a cloud that is not their own fault. Trump fired three Democratic board members, upending the convention of a bipartisan TVA board, and depriving the board of its quorum. Are Republicans Okay with that? How about when the winds change? Political interference to enrich political megadonors is the exact opposite of what is needed to run a proper utility.

A public board, like the TVA board, needs competent visionaries. I will just say that the classic pay-to-play political spoils system has never worked for the public. History shows that. It could well wreak its havoc on TVA and its 10 million customers.

I look forward to hearing from the nominees whose interests they will put first. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you, Senator Whitehouse.

Before I turn to Senator Blackburn, I am going to respond just for 1 minute on the permitting. In the same symposium on Monday evening where I and Congressman Westerman, from the House side, both reiterated several times that permitting reform has to be agonistic as to what project it is, it does not matter if it is a natural gas, coal, wind, solar, to me. If you get the permits and you do the things that you need to do to be permitted, you should move forward no matter what.

You were reminded, if I can say, I think it was Senator Lummis, reminded you yesterday that we feel your pain. The XL Pipeline that was canceled the first day of the Biden administration is a good example of that. We have mutual pain here. This is why I think we can get permitting reform. I understand, and I get your message. Thank you.

This morning we are joined by Senators Blackburn, maybe Hagerty, and Tuberville, to provide remarks before the committee. We will begin with Senator Blackburn to introduce Mr. Graves and Mr. Hagood, both from Tennessee, nominated to be members of the board of directors of TVA.

STATEMENT OF HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Senator BLACKBURN. Thank you, Madam Chairman. I am delighted to join you this morning and introduce these two fine Tennesseans.

As you said, Mr. Mitch Graves has served on the board of commissioners of Memphis Light, Gas and Water, we call it MLGW, since 2016. MLGW is the largest 3-service utility in the Country, and the Tennessee Valley Authority's largest customer.

During his tenure, he has chaired the pension and Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) funds as well as the hedge, audit and human resource committees, and briefly served as CEO, providing steady leadership in one of Memphis' most critical public institutions. He has over 37 years of executive leadership experience in complex regulated industries.

He currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of the West Cancer and Research Institute, leading a multi-State health care organization with more than 100 providers and 750 employees. Prior to this role, he served as president and CEO of HealthChoice, LLC and held key executive positions at Methodist Le Bonheur Health Care.

His expertise has been recognized nationally through his service on the United Health Care's Executive Advisory Council and Cigna's National Health Care Advisory Council, where he has provided valuable insight on health care strategy and innovation.

With his deep roots in the Memphis community, decades of executive leadership and steadfast commitment to public service, he represents the best of Tennessee's business and civic leadership. I am confident that his experience and dedication will continue to serve our State and Nation well.

At this time, I would like to introduce Mr. Jeff Hagood, from the small community of Persia, to serve on the TVA board of directors. In addition to his 35-year legal career, Mr. Hagood has built and

managed a diverse portfolio of successful businesses across our State.

His business ventures have included many storage facilities, warehouses, urgent care medical clinics, a large trucking operation, residential subdivisions, restaurants, apartments, commercial properties, farm land, and a sports agency. His extensive experience in business and management brings a vital private sector perspective to TVA's leadership.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, he has dedicated much of his life to serving his community. He has served on numerous non-profit boards, mentored children through Big Brothers and Big Sisters for nearly a decade, and for almost 20 years has led his church's shut-in ministry, personally preparing and delivering meals to those unable to leave their homes. His commitment to service reflects the very values TVA was founded upon.

With his legal expertise, entrepreneurial success, and unwavering commitment to service, Mr. Hagood embodies the values that have long defined the people of the Tennessee Valley. I am confident that his leadership will bring strength, accountability and common sense stewardship to the TVA Board of Directors.

Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you, Senator Blackburn.

Now I will turn to Senator Hagerty.

STATEMENT OF HON. BILL HAGERTY,
U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Senator HAGERTY. Thank you, Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse. I appreciate your holding this important nomination hearing today.

My home State of Tennessee is dependent on the Tennessee Valley Authority for the entirety of our energy supply. While TVA touches a number of other States in the valley, Tennessee has only one option for our vital energy needs, and that is the TVA.

It is my honor to introduce two outstanding Tennesseans, Mitch Graves and Jeff Hagood, who have been nominated by President Trump to serve on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Both men bring decades of leadership experience in business, management and community service. You have heard from Senator Blackburn the extent of their experience.

Their proven record of results makes them exceptionally well qualified to help guide TVA at this critical moment in our Nation's energy future.

I would also like to recognize Randy Jones and Art Graham, who, while not from my home State, bring valuable experience, valuable expertise, and valuable perspective that if confirmed, will help advance the Valley's vision for affordable, reliable energy, regional growth and technical innovation in the years ahead.

This hearing is about more than the four nominees sitting in front of you. It is about the future of American energy dominance and the transformative role that TVA can play in securing that dominance. The Tennessee Valley Authority is uniquely positioned to lead America's nuclear energy revival and shape the direction of our Country's power generation for the next century. We have a

once-in-a-generation opportunity to ensure American energy independence and technical dominance.

The 21st century economy will be powered by artificial intelligence, quantum computing and advanced manufacturing, all of which demand vast amounts of reliable baseload power. The ability to generate that power is critical to ensuring that the United States continues to be the global leader.

Let me be clear: failure in this endeavor is not an option. Nuclear energy is in Tennessee's DNA, and nuclear energy is the solution that can meet our future needs at scale.

TVA is already leading the way. It holds the Nation's only early site permit for a small modular reactor, making it the clear frontrunner in America's nuclear resurgence. SMRs are safer, more efficient and more replicable than traditional reactors. Now is the time to deliver.

Unfortunately, TVA's potential has too often been constrained by bureaucracy and a lack of vision. For too long, the board prioritized process over progress and metrics over mission. Today, we have an opportunity to change that, to empower new leadership that will cut through the red tape and move TVA forward with renewed purpose.

The Trump administration's decisive action to bring fresh leadership to TVA ensures that we can confirm board members who understand the urgency of this moment, leaders who will champion innovation, job creation and energy independence.

Mitch Graves and Jeff Hagood understand the responsibility before them. They recognize that TVA's role in deploying advanced nuclear technologies is central not just to Tennessee's prosperity, but to America's national security and our global competitiveness.

I am confident that under their leadership TVA will act boldly, deliver a clear plan to make TVA the driving force in America's energy and technology future. If TVA succeeds, the United States will lead the world in reliable and scalable energy production. If it fails, we risk ceding that ground to adversaries like China. The stakes could not be higher.

This is America's moment to lead, to enter a new era of innovation that powers our economy, that strengthens our security, and secures a new American golden age. I am proud to support these four qualified nominees to serve on the TVA board of directors, and I look forward to their swift confirmation.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Now we have Senator Tuberville to introduce Mr. Jones of Alabama, who has obviously been nominated to a member of the board of directors of the TVA. Senator Tuberville, thank you for coming. Please proceed.

STATEMENT OF HON. TOMMY TUBERVILLE, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ALABAMA

Senator TUBERVILLE. Thank you, Madam Chair and Ranking Member. It is my honor to introduce my good friend and fellow Alabamian, Mr. Randy Jones of Guntersville, Alabama, to represent the State of Alabama on the one seat that we have on the TVA board.

Randy is a proud business owner and a civic servant of North Alabama. Over 45 years, he has started his own insurance agency and has grown it substantially over the years, making him a big player in the State of Alabama. For 17 years, Randy has served on the Guntersville Electric Board, where he oversaw a $12.8 million expansion of the system while keeping their debt low, which is very important.

He has also served on the Business Council and Renewal Commission of Alabama and Jacksonville State University's Board of Directors, where he oversaw significant infrastructure and economic development efforts across our State.

Mr. Jones' strong background in business and civil service sets him up to be a valuable board member of the TVA. I am grateful for the hard work he has done so far in Alabama and look forward to working with him on the TVA board.

Thank you for being here today, Randy Jones. Thank you.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you. Thank you all very much.

I would ask the witnesses if they would move to the witness table, nominees, and I will swear you in.

I am going to ask you to stand, to save you the up and down. Raise your right hand, please, and answer the following questions. I will start with Mr. Graves.

Do you swear the testimony you are about to give to this committee is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. GRAVES. Yes, Chairman.

Mr. HAGOOD. Yes, Chairman.

Mr. JONES. Yes, Chairman.

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes, Chairman.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you. Let the record show that the witnesses have answered in the affirmative, and so we will now hear from our witnesses. Thank you.

Mr. Graves, when you are ready, everybody is seated, you can proceed with your opening statement. Thank you for being here.

STATEMENT OF JOHN MITCHELL GRAVES, NOMINEE TO THE TENNESSEE VALLEY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. GRAVES. Chairman Capito, Ranking Member Whitehouse, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and for considering my nomination to the Tennessee Valley Authority's Board of Directors.

For the record, my name is Mitch Graves, and I am a fourth generation Memphian. It is an honor to have been nominated by President Trump to serve an institution that has played such a vital role in the Tennessee Valley for more than 90 years, providing affordable, reliable electricity, fostering economic growth, and protecting the region's natural resources.

I have had personal experience with every aspect of TVA's mission. As a life-long Memphian, I experienced TVA's dam, Pickwick Lake formed from that, and from childhood, fishing with my grandfather to water skiing as a young adult. I have seen first-hand how TVA has played a critical role in my hometown's economic development over the years, bringing jobs and opportunity.

Of course, TVA has provided our citizens with low-cost electricity through our local power company, Memphis Light Gas and Water, better known as MLG&W. Since 2016, I have served on the Board of Commissioners of MLG&W. As the Senator said earlier, MLG&W is the largest 3-service utility in the Country and TVA's largest customer, accounting for about 10 percent of its revenue.

I have served as chairman of MLG&W and for a brief time period, interim CEO. During my term as chairman, MLG&W explored alternative suppliers of energy. We developed an Integrated Resource Plan from which then we developed a Request for Proposal. After reviewing numerous options, MLG&W decided against selecting any bids and recommended staying with TVA, a decision that underscores both TVA's value and its importance to Memphis. Throughout that process, TVA stood out thanks to its reliability and low rates.

I also gained a better appreciation of TVA's balanced generation portfolio and how critical that is in keeping the lights on and power bills low. Memphis and the Valley are well served by TVA.

In addition to serving as chairman, I have served as chairman of the MLG&W Pension and OPEB Funds and the chairman of Hedge, Audit, and Human Resource committees. If confirmed, I am pleased to bring my direct governance experience in the public utility sector to the TVA board.

As outlined in the materials I have submitted to the Committee, I have over 37 years of executive leadership experience in complex, regulated environments. In my current role as chief executive officer of West Cancer Center and Research Institute, I lead a multi-State healthcare organization with 100 providers and 750 employees.

Prior to that, I served as president and CEO of HealthChoice, LLC, and held executive leadership roles at Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare.

I have had the privilege of serving on many corporate, non-profit, healthcare, and governmental boards, most often in leadership roles. My background in executive management, combined with utility governance and community service, will enable me to provide balanced oversight while helping advance TVA's mission of energy delivery, environmental stewardship, and economic development.

If confirmed, I will uphold the TVA Act and work to ensure that TVA stays true to its mission and continues to meet the needs of families, businesses, and communities across the Valley, not just for today but for generations to come.

I would like to thank Senator Blackburn and Senator Hagerty for being here today and their kind words. I would also like to thank Representative Kustoff, who is in the audience, and Governor Bill Lee, for their support.

There are a few people in the audience I would like to also thank for their support: my wife, Kelly Joan, daughter Caroline, her new husband, Kavon, good friends Mike Keeney, Bill and Robin Orville, and Courtney Smith.

I certainly appreciate all TVA has done for my community and I look forward to giving back, and I look forward to collaborating with you all and answering your questions today.

Thank you very much.
[The prepared statement of Mr. Graves follows:]

Statement of John Mitchell Graves (Mitch)

Nominee to the Tennessee Valley Board of Directors

Before the

U.S Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

October 22, 2025

Chairman Capito, Ranking Member Whitehouse, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and for considering my nomination to the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors.

For the record, my name is Mitch Graves, and I am a fourth generation Memphian. It is an honor to have been nominated by President Trump to serve an institution that has played such a vital role in the Tennessee Valley for more than 90 years – providing affordable, reliable electricity, fostering economic growth, and protecting the region's natural resources.

I have had personal experience with every aspect of the TVA mission.

As a life-long Memphian, I experienced TVA's Pickwick Lake from childhood, fishing with my grandfather and water skiing as a young adult. I have seen firsthand how TVA has played a critical role in my hometown's economic development over the years, bringing jobs and opportunity. And of course, TVA has provided our citizens with low-cost electricity through our local power company – Memphis Light Gas and Water – known as MLG&W.

Since 2016, I have served on the Board of Commissioners of MLG&W. MLG&W is the largest 3-service utility in the country and TVA's largest customer, representing about 10% of its annual revenue.

I have served as Chairman of MLG&W and for a brief time, interim CEO. During my term as Chairman, MLG&W explored alternative suppliers of energy. We developed an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) which led to a Request for Proposal (RFP). After reviewing numerous options, MLG&W decided against selecting any bids and recommended staying with TVA - a decision that underscores both TVA's value and its importance to Memphis. Throughout that process, TVA stood out thanks to its reliability and low rates. I also gained a better appreciation of TVA's balanced generation portfolio and how critical that is in keeping the lights on and power bills low. Memphis and the Valley region are well served by TVA.

In addition to serving as Board Chairman, I have served as Chairman of the MLG&W Pension and OPEB Funds and the Chairman of Hedge, Audit, and Human Resource

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As outlined in the materials I have submitted to the Committee, I have over 37 years of executive leadership experience in complex, regulated environments. In my current role as Chief Executive Officer of West Cancer Center and Research Institute, I lead a multi-state healthcare organization with over one hundred providers and 750 employees. Prior to that, I served as President and CEO of HealthChoice, LLC, and held executive leadership roles at Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare.

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If confirmed, I will uphold the TVA Act and work to ensure that TVA stays true to its mission and continues to meet the needs of families, businesses, and communities across the Valley- today and for generations to come.

I certainly appreciate all TVA has done for my community and I look forward to giving back to it, and I look forward to collaborating with you and answering your questions today.

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Hearing Entitled, *"Hearing on the Nominations of Mitch Graves, Jeff Hagood, Randall Jones, and Arthur Graham to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority"*
October 22, 2025
Responses to Questions for the Record for Mitch Graves

Senator Husted:

1. Do you believe the Tennessee Valley Authority should remain a public, federally owned utility?

   Yes

   a. Will you commit to maintaining TVA's current ownership and governance structure, rather than pursuing privatization or outside management?

      Yes

Senator Whitehouse:

1. TVA's ability to meet its mission depends on long-term planning. Recent dismissals of TVA Board members have raised public concerns about the TVA Board being reshaped by a partisan political agenda. If confirmed to serve on the TVA Board of Directors, will you commit to not acting in a partisan manner when it comes to managing TVA?

   Yes

2. One way to address load growth from data centers and manufacturing is for customers to bring their own energy generation resources, either through on-site generation or power purchase agreements, to offset their energy demand. To date, TVA has not allowed customers to pursue these options.

   a. Do you commit to explore all available avenues to ensure that power demand growth from data centers within TVA service area is met with zero-emissions sources (including solar, wind, nuclear, and battery storage), including exploring ways to implement bring-your-own generation options?

      Completing the Integrated Resource Plan will be a priority of mine if confirmed. It is a critical tool to understand potential future power demand and the portfolio and tools needed to deliver on that. Through that process, I commit to reviewing all available options that will serve TVA's customers best and provide affordable and reliable electricity. I am very interested in learning more about "bring-your-own generation" options for TVA.

b. Do you commit to ensure that costs associated with data center power demand growth are not transferred to other TVA customers?

Yes

3. On July 14, as reported in *The Atlantic*, the White House called on the TVA Board to fire the current CEO or be fired themselves.

a. Would you vote to remove TVA's CEO, or undertake any other change to TVA leadership or personnel, if directed by the White House?

If confirmed, I would review any concerns brought to the Board's attention, including those by the White House. I would make all decisions in execution of my role as a TVA Board member in alignment with the TVA Act and in support of the mission and objectives set forth in the Act.

b. Under what circumstances would you vote to remove TVA's CEO?

If confirmed, I would commit to ensuring through my role on the TVA Board that the CEO was fulfilling the TVA Act and providing the leadership required for TVA to serve the people of the Tennessee Valley to the best of their ability. Examples of circumstances contrary to this include failure to perform their duties, unethical behavior or misconduct, poor financial performance, and misalignment with culture and mission.

4. If confirmed, will you hold TVA's CEO accountable if they pursue privatization or divestiture of TVA assets?

Yes

5. TVA owns more than 16,400 miles of transmission lines, much of which is decades old. Will you advocate for TVA to fully implement reconductoring and grid-enhancing technologies to increase existing transmission capacity alongside new transmission construction where needed? Do you commit to publicly tracking transmission capacity added through upgrades in addition to new miles of line built?

Yes, I commit to ensuring that TVA reviews all possibilities for expanding the capacity of its existing grid and building needed new transmission. I also commit to working with TVA leadership to understand options for sharing information with the public related to this work.

6. Do you commit to ensuring TVA's upcoming Integrated Resource and Transmission Plans fully evaluate non-wire alternatives, reconductoring, and efficiency measures before authorizing any new fossil fuel generation?

   Completing the Integrated Resource Plan will be a priority of mine if confirmed. It is a critical tool to understand potential future power demand and the portfolio and tools needed to deliver. I commit to reviewing all available options that will serve TVA's customers best, with affordable and reliable electricity, including non-wire alternatives, reconductoring, and efficiency measures.

7. TVA owns several stranded or underutilized assets, which could be repurposed for renewable generation, battery storage, advanced nuclear reactors, or advanced grid technologies. Before authorizing new fossil fuel projects or acquiring additional land, will you commit to ensuring TVA fully evaluates and utilizes its existing sites and infrastructure to meet capacity needs and community development goals?

   Yes, TVA should review all existing sites and infrastructure for potential repurposing as part of the Integrated Resource Plan process.

8. Will you recuse yourself from any votes relating to any companies in which you hold investments that have business before the TVA?

   I know of no potential conflicts of interest. I will follow all guidance and requirements established with the Office of Government Ethics.

Senator Sanders:

1. Are you aware that the Building Trades have worked with the TVA since its inception in the 1930s? Will you ensure working men and women in the construction trades are supported by any future actions you take?

   Yes, I am aware that the Building Trades have helped TVA build its infrastructure over the last 90+ years. I commit to continuing the support of the men and women of TVA's workforce throughout my service on the TVA Board if confirmed.

2. The Tennessee Valley Authority provides electricity rates cheaper than over 70% of the country, with studies finding that privatization would increase those costs. Do you agree that privatization would raise rates for the ratepayers of the valley?

   Yes. As I shared in my testimony to the Committee, during my time at Memphis, Light, Gas and Water (MLG&W), we reviewed numerous alternatives, but decided to stay with TVA – a decision that underscores my support for the service TVA provides and the low rates that are so critical to the region.

3. Do you agree that stability of the TVA Board is needed to provide both accountability and responsible leadership in the Valley?

   Yes

4. TVA was created as a public power model, owned by the people it serves. As we look to the future, do you personally believe TVA should remain publicly owned, or do you see a case for shifting toward private influence or control?

   I believe TVA should remain a public utility as defined in the TVA Act.

5. The public power model is what makes TVA unique; it's not driven by shareholders but by service to the Valley. Do you support maintaining that public model as the foundation of TVA's mission moving forward?

   Yes

6. Given TVA's unique public power model and regional mission, do you think it's valuable for board members to have firsthand experience in power generation within the region to better understand the challenges and opportunities TVA faces?

   I have had the privilege of serving on many corporate, nonprofit, healthcare, and government boards, most often in leadership roles. I believe boards benefit from diverse perspectives, which can drive innovation and improvements. There is value in having experience in power generation within the region, but I would not think that it should be a pre-requisite or that TVA would be served well by all Board members having that same background.

7. TVA's success depends on its skilled, union workforce, the men and women who keep power flowing safely and reliably across seven states. How will you ensure that TVA continues to maintain strong collective bargaining relationships and protect good-paying union jobs as part of its long-term energy strategy?

   I agree with your statement, and if confirmed, I will ensure that TVA management operates in good faith with bargaining units, and that TVA supports the workforce as well as the workforce needs of TVA.

8. TVA belongs to the people of the Tennessee Valley, not to Wall Street investors. How will you uphold transparency, public input, and accountability in TVA's decision-making process, especially regarding rate changes, energy generation choices, and long-term infrastructure planning?

   As a life-long Memphian, and currently active in both business and my community, I understand that it is important for TVA to engage with those that it serves and hear from the public about its work and decisions. If confirmed, I commit to providing that direction to TVA and always finding ways to connect with people.

I know that all TVA's Board meetings are open to the public with an agenda published a week before the meeting. TVA also hosts public listening sessions on the day prior to their Board meetings. I would also suggest TVA hold open meetings throughout the region for any major change impacting the Valley as a whole.

9. TVA was founded to deliver affordable, reliable power and good jobs through a public, not-for-profit model that reinvests in the communities it serves. Do you commit to opposing any effort, direct or indirect, to privatize TVA or outsource its core functions to private, profit-driven entities?

   I support TVA remaining a public utility company.

10. What steps will you take to ensure that TVA's decisions remain guided by public service and regional development, not short-term profit motives?

    TVA has served the Tennessee Valley for more than 90 years, and its mission is one of public service and regional development. It was created to serve communities not just with electricity, but economic development to improve life in the region. I will always focus my decisions on this mission and ask myself, "What is in the best interest of the citizens of the Valley and Local Power Companies served by TVA?"

11. Will you commit to full transparency and public consultation before any major restructuring, sale, or outsourcing of TVA assets or operations?

    If ever needed, yes.

12. TVA has historically provided stable, middle-class jobs with fair wages and benefits. What role do you see TVA playing in sustaining and expanding good union jobs in the Valley?

    TVA has a mission of service to make life better for the region. It is going through a time of growth and need for expansion. TVA must be a good employer for the men and women in its workforce, and I understand that almost 60% are represented by unions. I support TVA's continued commitments to these workers.

13. How will you ensure that energy decisions, such as plant closures or fuel source transitions, do not come at the expense of local jobs or community stability?

    Closures and transitions are always difficult. However, I also think that during this time of growth, TVA will benefit from the strong workforce in its region. Community stability should always be an important consideration, as TVA must be a good steward to both areas it serves and areas and communities that serve alongside. I would support exploring the repurposing of sites and job transitions when possible.

14. In your view, what distinguishes TVA's public mission from that of a private utility, and how could that difference guide your decision-making as a board member?

TVA is not-for-profit. It is guided by the TVA Act and the mission of the Act set forth by Congress. My decision-making as a TVA Board member if confirmed would always be with the goal of providing low-cost, reliable power, stewardship of the environment, and support of economic development.

15. TVA and the Trades and Labor Council for Annual Employees of the Tennessee Valley Authority have a current ten-year recognition agreement through April 29th, 2032. If you are confirmed to serve on the TVA board, will you commit to ensuring the terms of this agreement are upheld by all signatory parties?

Yes, if confirmed, I will prioritize reviewing TVA's collective bargaining agreements and commit to supporting the workforce as well as the workforce needs of TVA. I would commit to ensuring TVA upholds all legal obligations.

16. The energy business requires a long-term plan to ensure that demand is met with the least cost and the most efficient generation portfolio. This requires a consistent long-term plan that is not subject to partisan politics. With the recent partisan firing of three TVA Board members and your being nominated by the same administration, can you assure the TVA distributors and customers that you will not act in a partisan manner when it comes to managing the public utility?

Yes, I will act in a non-partisan manner in governing the utility.

Senator Markey:

1. In the hearing, you agreed that costs for data centers should not be borne by ratepayers. However, while serving on the board of Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW), you helped get Elon Musk's xAI across the finish line, which cost ratepayers over $750,000.

   a. Looking back now, would you have approached this deal differently?

   I think there were lessons learned in communicating with the public through the process of working on the xAI project. In particular, I do not know that it was clearly shared that the financing of the project will not be borne by ratepayers.

   b. Why did MLGW choose to sign a non-disclosure agreement with xAI, a private company, while pledging public resources?

   I would not want to comment on any specific agreement without knowing which one is being referenced, however, I do understand that in the economic development recruitment process, confidientialty agreements are signed, as is regular course of business.

c. What specific environmental due diligence, if any, did the Board require before MLGW endorsed the project to TVA?

MLGW submitted the power needs of the project to TVA. Environmental reviews are undertaken where required by other local and state or federal entities.

2. The TVA Board of Directors has the duty of appointing a Chief Executive Officer. This role is not a political appointment - the TVA Act directs the board to hire a CEO who has expertise in the electric industry, experience in executive management of large, complex organizations, and financial skills.

   a. If confirmed to the TVA Board of Directors, will you commit to ensuring that TVA's CEO meets these statutory qualifications?

   Yes

   b. If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring that TVA's CEO acts in full compliance with the TVA Act?

   Yes

   c. If confirmed, will you hold TVA's CEO accountable if he or she pursues privatization or divestiture of TVA assets?

   Yes

3. The TVA Act says that Board members shall affirm support for the objectives and missions of the Corporation, including being a national leader in technological innovation, low-cost power, and environmental stewardship.

   a. Do you believe the TVA Act and TVA's public power model support TVA's ability to innovate and lead in developing and deploying advanced energy projects and technologies?

   Yes, if financially feasible.

   b. If not, what barrier or constraints does the TVA model create?

   The TVA debt ceiling established in the 1970s may be a limiting factor for some projects.

4. If confirmed, can you assure the TVA distributors and customers that you will not act in a partisan manner when it comes to managing the public utility?

   Yes.

5. If confirmed, do you agree to maintain strong collective bargaining relationships and project labor agreements with TVA workers?

   Yes, if confirmed, I will prioritize reviewing TVA's collective bargaining agreements, and commit to supporting the workforce as well as the workforce needs of TVA.

6. In 2022, for the last year we have full available data, TVA emitted 49 million metric tons of CO2.

   a. If confirmed, will you continue to release carbon emissions data for TVA?

      If confirmed, I would review the information shared and best methods for release of this data, but overall, would commit to ensuring TVA shares all information required and prioritizes transparency to the public.

   b. How do you plan to help TVA reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, if confirmed?

      If confirmed, I would prioritize TVA completing the Integrated Resource Plan process, and work to ensure that TVA is reviewing all possible options and generation sources to provide reliable, affordable power while reducing emissions as much as possible, including expansion of nuclear and hydroelectric as well as ensuring the grid and generation is operating as efficiently as possible.

7. Solar is the cheapest megawatt to build and operate on average, at $58 per megawatt-hour. And building new solar – even solar plus storage – is now cheaper than just running coal plants in the United States. If confirmed, how will you incorporate these economics into TVA's Integrated Resource Plan?

   If confirmed, I would prioritize completing TVA's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) process, and work to ensure that TVA is reviewing all generation sources that can meet the current and future power needs of the region at the lowest cost feasible. I would commit to reviewing the economic data that is incorporated into the IRP.

8. Congress invested tens of billions of dollars to expand broadband access across the country. Local power companies in the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) service area play an important role in this effort by providing essential infrastructure, including utility poles, that enable broadband deployment. Under the law, TVA exercises oversight authority over the rates charged by its local power companies, including for pole attachments. High pole attachment rates can impose substantial costs on broadband providers, which can slow broadband deployment. I understand that TVA is reviewing or may be considering adjustments to those rates. Does TVA have a process for engaging with the public, including community representatives, consumer advocates, and broadband providers, in its rate-setting deliberations, similar to the stakeholder processes used by state utility commissions and the Federal Communications Commission?

From my experience, I know that the TVA Board hosts public listening sessions and meetings where any rate changes or adjustments would be discussed. If confirmed, I will review these and all other stakeholder processes to prioritize communication and transparency with those served by TVA.

9. If confirmed, will you treat FOIA, the Government in the Sunshine Act, and OIG recommendations as baselines, not ceilings, for transparency?

Yes.

10. If confirmed, will you advocate to have board packets and slide decks made publicly available before meetings?

If confirmed, I will review TVA's current policies for sharing information prior to Board meetings and will aim to ensure that TVA provide the public as much information as is feasible and helpful.

11. The Tennessee River faces numerous competing demands and challenges, including increasing populations and industrial activity demanding more water from the river, increasing industrial activity polluting the river, the need to keep water levels at an appropriate level so as to allow for the transportation of goods along the river, record-breaking rainfall events due to climate change, recreation interests, and flood control. What expertise or experience do you bring to managing the dams, reservoirs, and locks along the river for multiple uses, as well as ensuring water quality is protected for human health and safety?

I have over 37 years of executive leadership experience in complex, regulated environments. In my current role, I lead a multi-state healthcare organization with over one hundred providers and 750 employees. I also would bring to the TVA Board my experience with Memphis, Light, Gas and Water – the water supplier for Memphis, TN.

I believe that this experience – balancing needs and priorities, managing workforce, and understanding complex regulatory structures - will help me bring value to the Board as it oversees the TVA management team and staff in their work related to river management.

12. Just over a year ago, a large portion of the Tennessee Valley was devastated by Hurricane Helene. The storm decimated human infrastructure and reshaped the landscape and waterways across a large area, including portions of Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee and Virginia. TVA played an important role in mitigating the damage to property, managing its dams to protect communities from even more severe flooding.

    a. What expertise or experience do you bring to this role to ensure that TVA is equipped to manage the next major storm that hits the valley?

Unfortunately, we have had many catastrophic weather events in Memphis over the last 10 years. Disaster planning, training, and testing systems are critical to preparedness. At Memphis, Light, Water and Gas, and in all my positions, we have learned from every challenging event, implemented changes and are better prepared for what the future may bring.

b. Will you commit to prioritizing routine, preventative dam maintenance to avoid dam failures during extreme rainfall events?

Yes

Senator Kelly:

1. Roughly 40% of TVA's current power supply comes from nuclear plants, representing about 16 GW of capacity. Despite nuclear energy being a cornerstone of TVA's portfolio, and the current enthusiasm for its expansion, TVA's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan includes only up to 1 GW of additional nuclear capacity by 2050. This raises concerns that TVA may not be able to bring new nuclear generation online at the pace required to meet future demand. Do you believe TVA's current projections reflect an expectation that nuclear development will remain slow or limited in the coming decades?

If confirmed, I would prioritize completing TVA's Integrated Resource Plan process, and work to ensure that TVA is considering the best options for meeting the needs of the future. I believe that nuclear power to going to have to play an extremely important part, and so I would closely review the findings of the IRP related to nuclear and evaluate the amount projected for the future portfolio.

a. If not, what actions do you believe TVA can take to accelerate the process of getting more nuclear assets on the grid faster?

TVA has made recent progress with the Clinch River Nuclear Project, a SMR project in East Tennessee, and announced deals with Kairos, Google and more on additional projects. I would encourage TVA to continue to purse nuclear opportunities and accelerate work at Clinch River.
I do understand that financing is a challenge, and TVA's debt ceiling, imposed in the 1970s, likely needs to be reviewed and updated.
I also would encourage TVA work with policymakers, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to expedite reviews on nuclear projects as much as possible.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you very much.
Next we will go to Mr. Hagood.

STATEMENT OF LARRY JEFFREY HAGOOD, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Mr. HAGOOD. Chairman Capito, Ranking Member Whitehouse, and members of this committee, my name is Jeff Hagood, and I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to appear before you.

I was indeed humbled that President Trump nominated me to be on the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors, and I am very grateful to my two Senators, Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty, for their kind words and support.

I was born and raised in Persia, Tennessee, a little hamlet about 65 miles from Knoxville. I was fortunate to be raised in a wonderful home and in a wonderful community. My father, Larry Hagood, was the best man I have ever known. My mother, Doris Hagood, was the best mother anybody could ever have.

My daddy was a rural mail carrier, and he grew tobacco on our little farm to supplement our income. He also founded the Persia Utility District. I saw first-hand what a difference that made in my little community.

My mother worked for TVA as a secretary. I so remember my mother talking about how proud she was to work for TVA and how much she loved her work. My mother's only sister, Virginia, and my mother's little brother, Joe Don, had careers at TVA as well.

Just as TVA was important to my family, it was also important to my community. As a child, I would often peddle my bicycle down our little rural road, Chalk Level Road, to gaze at those towering smokestacks of the John Sevier Fossil Plant. TVA was more than an employer, it was the economic heartbeat of my little community, offering the best-paying jobs and fueling growth and opportunity.

Today, TVA continues to drive energy production, economic development, and access to natural resources across our region, benefits that remain vital to the communities where I grew up and where I now live. Preserving and enhancing these opportunities should be a priority for all of us who want to serve this region.

Now, my parents had little formal education, but they both understood the value of education and had the expectation that I would be the first in my family to go to college. With their sacrifices, I was. I attended the University of Tennessee and got a degree in an Honors Program, and got my law degree.

Upon graduation, I took an unconventional path for a new lawyer at that time: I opened my own little practice. I made $5,218.00 my first year, and I am happy and thankful to say that both my little firm and I have grown significantly over the past 35 years.

My practice has always focused on litigation, and I have represented people from all walks of life with all kinds of cases. I have represented everyone from top business executives and athletes to hardworking folks who kept our offices clean and those who provided security for our offices. I think I have treated them all, and I sure hope I did, and their cases, with the same care and with the same zeal.

While I have practiced law full-time for the last 35 years, I have always had a particular interest in business. Since 1990, with the help of partners, I have built and developed mini-storage facilities and storage warehouses, urgent care medical clinics, a large trucking operation, subdivisions, restaurants, apartments, and commercial buildings.

I have purchased and developed farmland, and I co-founded a sports agency that represents many NFL players. I believe my background in business enables me to offer TVA the perspective of not only a businessman, but someone outside of the public utility sector.

I have had to learn personnel management, evaluate personnel, know when and how to raise capital, and when and how to deploy, hire the right people and get the right technology.

TVA has a mission of service, and I align myself with that mission. Throughout my life, I have strived to give back more to my community than I have taken. I have served on the boards of many, many non-profits. I have contributed time, not just money.

For nearly a decade, I went into the worst project in Knoxville every Monday night and mentored two twins. For 20 years, I have prepared, myself, meals and delivered those for those that are shut in, and led my church's shut-in ministry.

On a personal note, I met my wife, Millicent, at our church. We have been married for 6 years. We have a 3-year-old son. His name is Quinn. Faith and family are the cornerstones of our lives.

I share this background of legal experience, business acumen, service to my community and State, and my appreciation for what TVA has meant to my family and to my community because it demonstrates the values and experiences I would bring to the TVA board if confirmed.

Today, I commit to bringing strong leadership, common sense, and accountability to the people TVA serves. I will never lose sight of the communities like my hometown of Persia, Tennessee, and the common man and the common woman. I will be a voice for the mission and values that were set forth nearly 100 years ago in the founding of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hagood follows:]

Statement of Larry Jeffrey "Jeff" Hagood
Nominee to the Tennessee Valley Board of Directors
Before the
U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
October 22, 2025

Chairman Capito, Ranking Member Whitehouse, and members of the Committee:

My name is Jeff Hagood, and I sincerely thank you all very much for the opportunity to appear before you. I was indeed humbled to be nominated by President Trump to serve on the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors, and I am very grateful to my two Senators, Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty, for their support for my nomination.

I was born and raised in Persia, Tennessee, a little hamlet about sixty miles from Knoxville. I was fortunate to be raised in a wonderful home and in a wonderful community. My father, Larry E. Hagood, was the best man I've ever known. My mother, Doris S. Hagood, was the best mother anybody could ever have. My daddy was a rural mail carrier, and he grew tobacco on our little farm to supplement our income. He also founded the Persia Utility District, and I saw firsthand how this helped our rural community prosper. My mother worked for TVA as a secretary. I so remember my mother talking about how proud she was to work for TVA and how much she loved her work. My mother's only sister, Virginia, and my mother's little brother Joe Don, both had careers at TVA as well.

Just as TVA was important to my family, it was also important to my community. As a child, I would often peddle my bicycle down our rural road to gaze at the towering smokestacks of TVA's John Sevier Fossil Plant. TVA was more than an employer, it was the economic heartbeat of our community, offering the best-paying jobs and fueling growth and opportunity.

Today, TVA continues to drive energy production, economic development, and access to natural resources across the region – benefits that remain vital to the communities where I grew up and where I now live. Preserving and enhancing these opportunities should be a priority for all of us who serve in this region.

My parents had little formal education, but they both understood the value of education and had the expectation that I would be the first in our family to attend college. With their sacrifices, I was. I attended the University of Tennessee and received an undergraduate degree in an Honors Program, and I then obtained my J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

Upon graduation, I took an unconventional path for a new lawyer at that time and I opened my own little practice. I made $5,218.00 my first year, and I am happy and thankful to say that both my little firm and I have grown significantly over the past thirty-five years.

My practice has always focused on litigation, and I have represented people from all walks of life with all kinds of cases. I have represented everyone from business executives and athletes to the

hardworking folks who keep our office building clean and safe. I think I have treated them all, and their cases, with the same care and with the same zeal.

While I've practiced law full-time for the last thirty-five years or so, I have always had a particular interest in business. Since 1990, with the help of different partners, I have built and developed mini storage facilities and storage warehouses; urgent care medical clinics; a large trucking operation; subdivisions, restaurants, apartments, and commercial buildings; I have purchased and developed farmland; and I co-founded a sports agency that represented many prominent NFL and MLB players.

I believe my background in business enables me to offer TVA the perspective of not only a businessman, but someone outside of the public utility sector. I have had to learn personnel management; evaluate personnel; know when and how to raise capital; and then know when and how to deploy that capital; hire the right people and invest in the right technology.

TVA has a mission of service, and I align myself with that mission. Throughout my life, I have strived to give back more to my community than I have received. I have served on the Boards of many non-profit organizations, and I have contributed time – not just money. For nearly a decade, I mentored twins weekly in the Big Brothers / Big Sisters program. Additionally, for nearly twenty years, I have helped lead my church's shut-in ministry, personally preparing and delivering meals to those unable to leave their homes. These experiences have deepened my understanding of service and have reaffirmed my commitment to uplifting the people of the Tennessee Valley.

On a personal note, I met my wife Millicent at our church, and we have been married for six years. We have a three-year-old son, Quinn. Faith and family are the cornerstones of our lives.

I share this background of legal experience, business acumen, service to my community and state, and my appreciation for what TVA has meant to my family and my community because it demonstrates the values and experiences I would bring to the TVA Board.

Today, I commit to bringing strong leadership, common sense, and accountability to the people TVA serves. I will never lose sight of the communities—like my hometown of Persia, TN—and the common man and woman. I will be a voice for the mission and values that were set forth nearly one hundred years ago in the forming of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Hearing Entitled, *"Hearing on the Nominations of Mitch Graves, Jeff Hagood, Randall Jones, and Arthur Graham to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority"*

October 22, 2025

Responses to Questions for the Record for Jeff Hagood

Senator Husted:

1. Do you believe the Tennessee Valley Authority should remain a public, federally owned utility?

   Yes

   a. Will you commit to maintaining TVA's current ownership and governance structure, rather than pursuing privatization or outside management?

      Yes, I commit to maintaining TVA's current structure as it is laid out in the TVA Act by Congress.

Senator Whitehouse:

1. TVA's ability to meet its mission depends on long-term planning. Recent dismissals of TVA Board members have raised public concerns about the TVA Board being reshaped by a partisan political agenda. If confirmed to serve on the TVA Board of Directors, will you commit to not acting in a partisan manner when it comes to managing TVA?

   Yes. I am committed to serving the people of the Valley and upholding the TVA Act as passed by Congress.

2. One way to address load growth from data centers and manufacturing is for customers to bring their own energy generation resources, either through on-site generation or power purchase agreements, to offset their energy demand. To date, TVA has not allowed customers to pursue these options.

   a. Do you commit to explore all available avenues to ensure that power demand growth from data centers within TVA service area is met with zero-emissions sources (including solar, wind, nuclear, and battery storage), including exploring ways to implement bring-your-own generation options?

      I believe everything should be on the table, and I plan to explore all available avenues to meet power demand. Looking at ways large consumers of energy can provide some or all of their own electricity seems like a commonsense approach .

   b. Do you commit to ensure that costs associated with data center power demand growth are not transferred to other TVA customers?

I commit to keeping rates as low as possible for TVA customers, and I will never lose sight of the communities—like my hometown of Persia, TN—and the common man and woman. It will be important that the TVA Board ensures costs associated with the power demands of large corporations are not borne by residents and ratepayers of the Valley.

3. On July 14, as reported in The Atlantic, the White House called on the TVA Board to fire the current CEO or be fired themselves.

    a. Would you vote to remove TVA's CEO, or undertake any other change to TVA leadership or personnel, if directed by the White House?

    If confirmed, I will take an oath to uphold the TVA Act and serve the people of the Valley. That would be the foundation of all my actions as a TVA Board member.

    b. Under what circumstances would you vote to remove TVA's CEO?

    I would take seriously the responsibility upon the TVA Board to choose the TVA CEO. The Board's obligation is to ensure the CEO has fulfilled their duties in line with the mission of TVA, and I would make any decision related to removal of a CEO based upon failures in that regard.

    c. If confirmed, will you hold TVA's CEO accountable if they pursue privatization or divestiture of TVA assets?

    Yes. I do not believe privatization of TVA is in the best interest of the Valley nor do I believe it falls within the CEO's purview. The TVA Act lays out the structure and governance of TVA. If confirmed, I would hold the CEO accountable if he contradicted the TVA Act.

4. TVA owns more than 16,400 miles of transmission lines, much of which is decades old. Will you advocate for TVA to fully implement reconductoring and grid-enhancing technologies to increase existing transmission capacity alongside new transmission construction where needed? Do you commit to publicly tracking transmission capacity added through upgrades in addition to new miles of line built?

    If confirmed, I commit to exploring these options to incorporate if they will ensure affordability and reliability for TVA rate payers.

5. Do you commit to ensuring TVA's upcoming Integrated Resource and Transmission Plans fully evaluate non-wire alternatives, reconductoring, and efficiency measures before authorizing any new fossil fuel generation?

    I believe TVA's planning must include all alternatives that can meet the growing demand for power and maintain affordable rates. I will commit to that as we oversee TVA's Integrated Resource Plan and any other reviews.

6. TVA owns several stranded or underutilized assets, which could be repurposed for renewable generation, battery storage, advanced nuclear reactors, or advanced grid technologies. Before authorizing new fossil fuel projects or acquiring additional land, will you commit to ensuring

TVA fully evaluates and utilizes its existing sites and infrastructure to meet capacity needs and community development goals?

Yes, it seems like a commonsense approach that TVA's planning evaluates all options including utilizing existing sites and infrastructure to meet capacity needs and serve the community.

Senator Sanders:

1. Are you aware that the Building Trades have worked with the TVA since its inception in the 1930s? Will you ensure working men and women in the construction trades are supported by any future actions you take?

   Yes.

2. The Tennessee Valley Authority provides electricity rates cheaper than over 70% of the country, with studies finding that privatization would increase those costs. Do you agree that privatization would raise rates for the ratepayers of the valley?

   I believe the current public power model provides the best rates possible for the people of the Valley.

3. Do you agree that stability of the TVA Board is needed to provide both accountability and responsible leadership in the Valley?

   I do.

4. TVA was created as a public power model, owned by the people it serves. As we look to the future, do you personally believe TVA should remain publicly owned, or do you see a case for shifting toward private influence or control?

   I believe TVA should remain a public power provider. If confirmed, I am committed to maintaining TVA's current structure as it is laid out in the TVA Act, passed by Congress.

5. The public power model is what makes TVA unique; it's not driven by shareholders but by service to the Valley. Do you support maintaining that public model as the foundation of TVA's mission moving forward?

   I do.

6. Given TVA's unique public power model and regional mission, do you think it's valuable for board members to have firsthand experience in power generation within the region to better understand the challenges and opportunities TVA faces?

   I believe TVA would be served well by different experience that contribute to the needs of the organization. Personally, I am confident that my career and background enable me to offer TVA the perspective of not only a businessman but someone outside of the public utility sector. I've had to learn how to learn personnel management, evaluate personnel, know when and how to raise capital and when and how to deploy it, hire the right people, and get the right technology.

At the same time, I would bring to TVA the first-hand knowledge that I have of the communities it serves, having been born and raised in East Tennessee. I will never lose sight of places like my hometown of Persia, TN and the good people that live there. I will be a voice for the mission and values that were set forth nearly one hundred years ago in the forming of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

7. TVA's success depends on its skilled, union workforce, the men and women who keep power flowing safely and reliably across seven states. How will you ensure that TVA continues to maintain strong collective bargaining relationships and protect good-paying union jobs as part of its long-term energy strategy?

   During my time in business, I have gained important experience in personnel management and evaluation. I understand how critical it is to the success of a business to have strong relationships with employees, and if confirmed, I commit to putting that experience and understanding to use as I build relationships with our union partners.

8. TVA belongs to the people of the Tennessee Valley, not to Wall Street investors. How will you uphold transparency, public input, and accountability in TVA's decision-making process, especially regarding rate changes, energy generation choices, and long-term infrastructure planning?

   If confirmed, I commit to following the TVA Act and all other federal, state, and local regulations surrounding public transparency. It is important that the public have trust in and understanding of TVA's decisions and actions, and that TVA is accountable to the people that it serves.

9. TVA was founded to deliver affordable, reliable power and good jobs through a public, not-for-profit model that reinvests in the communities it serves. Do you commit to opposing any effort, direct or indirect, to privatize TVA or outsource its core functions to private, profit-driven entities?

   I do.

10. What steps will you take to ensure that TVA's decisions remain guided by public service and regional development, not short-term profit motives?

    TVA has a mission of service, and if confirmed, I would bring my alignment with and commitment to that mission to the TVA Board. I would work every day to ensure TVA's management was following the TVA Act and placing public service at the forefront of all their decisions.

11. Will you commit to full transparency and public consultation before any major restructuring, sale, or outsourcing of TVA assets or operations?

    If confirmed, I commit to following the TVA Act and all other federal, state, and local regulations surrounding public transparency, in every decision the Board makes.

12. TVA has historically provided stable, middle-class jobs with fair wages and benefits. What role do you see TVA playing in sustaining and expanding good union jobs in the Valley?

I understand how critical it is to the success of a business to have strong relationships with employees, and if confirmed, I commit to putting that experience and understanding to use as I build relationships with our union partners.

13. How will you ensure that energy decisions, such as plant closures or fuel source transitions, do not come at the expense of local jobs or community stability?

From the time I was a child in Persia, Tennessee, I have known how important TVA is to my community and my region. The John Sevier Fossil Plant was the economic heartbeat of our community, offering the best-paying jobs and fueling growth and opportunity. I know that is true for countless other communities across the region. With that background, I understand how plant closures or transitions can impact a community, and I would work tirelessly to ensure TVA makes the best possible commonsense decisions for its employees, the communities it serves, and the ratepayers.

14. In your view, what distinguishes TVA's public mission from that of a private utility, and how could that difference guide your decision-making as a board member?

If confirmed to the TVA Board, I would be guided by TVA's mission of service in making decisions, always striving to provide affordable and reliable power, create economic growth in the region and take care of the natural environment.

15. TVA and the Trades and Labor Council for Annual Employees of the Tennessee Valley Authority have a current ten-year recognition agreement through April 29th, 2032. If you are confirmed to serve on the TVA board, will you commit to ensuring the terms of this agreement are upheld by all signatory parties?

I commit to looking into the terms of the agreement, if confirmed, and ensuring TVA is upholding all legal obligations.

16. The energy business requires a long-term plan to ensure that demand is met with the least cost and the most efficient generation portfolio. This requires a consistent long-term plan that is not subject to partisan politics. With the recent partisan firing of three TVA Board members and your being nominated by the same administration, can you assure the TVA distributors and customers that you will not act in a partisan manner when it comes to managing the public utility?

Yes. I am committed to serving the people of the Valley and upholding the TVA Act as passed by Congress.

Senator Markey:

1. The TVA Board of Directors has the duty of appointing a Chief Executive Officer. This role is not a political appointment - the TVA Act directs the board to hire a CEO who has expertise in the electric industry, experience in executive management of large, complex organizations, and financial skills.

    a. If confirmed to the TVA Board of Directors, will you commit to ensuring that TVA's CEO meets these statutory qualifications?

    Yes.

    b. If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring that TVA's CEO acts in full compliance with the TVA Act?

    Yes.

    c. If confirmed, will you hold TVA's CEO accountable if he or she pursues privatization or divestiture of TVA assets?

    I do not believe privatization of TVA is in the best interest of the Valley nor do I believe it falls within the CEO's purview. The TVA Act lays out the structure and governance of TVA. If confirmed, I would hold the CEO accountable if they contradicted the TVA Act.

2. The TVA Act says that Board members shall affirm support for the objectives and missions of the Corporation, including being a national leader in technological innovation, low-cost power, and environmental stewardship.

    a. Do you believe the TVA Act and TVA's public power model support TVA's ability to innovate and lead in developing and deploying advanced energy projects and technologies?

    Yes.

    b. If not, what barrier or constraints does the TVA model create?

3. If confirmed, can you assure the TVA distributors and customers that you will not act in a partisan manner when it comes to managing the public utility?

    Yes. If confirmed, I will take an oath to uphold the TVA Act and serve the people of the Valley. That would be the foundation of all my actions as a TVA Board member.

4. If confirmed, do you agree to maintain strong collective bargaining relationships and project labor agreements with TVA workers?

    I understand how critical it is to the success of a business to have strong relationships with employees, and if confirmed, I commit to putting that experience and understanding to use as I build relationships with our union partners.

5. In 2022, for the last year we have full available data, TVA emitted 49 million metric tons of CO2. If confirmed, will you continue to release carbon emissions data for TVA?

   If confirmed, I will look into how this information is measured and reported, and ensure TVA is sharing any information that is required of the organization or serves the public in alignment with TVA's mission.

   a. How do you plan to help TVA reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, if confirmed?

      I understand that it is important that TVA reduce emissions as much as possible at the same time it is mandated to provide reliable and affordable power. If confirmed, I would want to review TVA's current system and needs and evaluate what technologies could be incorporated in the future, including any that could further reduce emissions.

6. Solar is the cheapest megawatt to build and operate on average, at $58 per megawatt-hour. And building new solar – even solar plus storage – is now cheaper than just running coal plants in the United States. If confirmed, how will you incorporate these economics into TVA's Integrated Resource Plan?

   It is paramount that TVA reviews all sources of power that can meet the growing power needs of the region and keep rates as low as possible. I would study all the economic data on sources of power to help advise TVA on the best path forward in the Integrated Resource Plan.

7. Congress invested tens of billions of dollars to expand broadband access across the country. Local power companies in the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) service area play an important role in this effort by providing essential infrastructure, including utility poles, that enable broadband deployment. Under the law, TVA exercises oversight authority over the rates charged by its local power companies, including for pole attachments. High pole attachment rates can impose substantial costs on broadband providers, which can slow broadband deployment. I understand that TVA is reviewing or may be considering adjustments to those rates. Does TVA have a process for engaging with the public, including community representatives, consumer advocates, and broadband providers, in its rate-setting deliberations, similar to the stakeholder processes used by state utility commissions and the Federal Communications Commission?

   While TVA is not in the broadband business, I believe TVA should do everything that they can to help local power providers expand broadband alongside telecommunication companies. If confirmed, I would look forward to learning more about TVA's process as it relates to broadband.

8. If confirmed, will you treat FOIA, the Government in the Sunshine Act, and OIG recommendations as baselines, not ceilings, for transparency?

   Yes.

9. If confirmed, will you advocate to have board packets and slide decks made publicly available before meetings?

If confirmed, I would want to review the current protocol and rationale for sharing information related to Board meetings, and then I would be glad to work with my colleagues on any improvements to the practices.

10. The Tennessee River faces numerous competing demands and challenges, including increasing populations and industrial activity demanding more water from the river, increasing industrial activity polluting the river, the need to keep water levels at an appropriate level so as to allow for the transportation of goods along the river, record-breaking rainfall events due to climate change, recreation interests, and flood control. What expertise or experience do you bring to managing the dams, reservoirs, and locks along the river for multiple uses, as well as ensuring water quality is protected for human health and safety?

Growing up in East Tennessee, I have significant personal experience with TVA-managed waterways and understand the importance of their work in this area to the communities they serve. In my professional career, I have frequently worked through regulatory compliance processes with different state and local agencies. If confirmed, I would bring this experience to the TVA Board, and I am looking forward to learning more about TVA's river management and related efforts.

11. Just over a year ago, a large portion of the Tennessee Valley was devastated by Hurricane Helene. The storm decimated human infrastructure and reshaped the landscape and waterways across a large area, including portions of Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee and Virginia. TVA played an important role in mitigating the damage to property, managing its dams to protect communities from even more severe flooding.

    a. What expertise or experience do you bring to this role to ensure that TVA is equipped to manage the next major storm that hits the valley?

    Being from and living in East Tennessee, I am keenly aware of the devastation brought by Hurricane Helene, and also of the important role that TVA plays in mitigating damage from severe weather events and flooding. I believe my legal experience as well as my first-hand knowledge of the communities served by TVA would assist the organization in planning for disaster response.

    b. Will you commit to prioritizing routine, preventative dam maintenance to avoid dam failures during extreme rainfall events?

    Yes.

Senator Kelly:

1. Roughly 40% of TVA's current power supply comes from nuclear plants, representing about 16 GW of capacity. Despite nuclear energy being a cornerstone of TVA's portfolio, and the current enthusiasm for its expansion, TVA's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan includes only up to 1 GW of additional nuclear capacity by 2050. This raises concerns that TVA may not be able to bring new nuclear generation online at the pace required to meet future demand. Do you believe TVA's current projections reflect an expectation that nuclear development will remain slow or limited in the coming decades? If not, what actions do you believe TVA can take to accelerate the process of getting more nuclear assets on the grid faster?

   Demand for electricity is growing rapidly and, while everything should be on the table, I believe nuclear energy is one of the most promising energy sources to meet the needs of the system. I am bullish we can accelerate bringing more nuclear to the TVA grid. I believe the Board will take a new look at the draft IRP, and, if confirmed, I would look forward to discussing TVA's nuclear goals further with you.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you.
Mr. Jones?

STATEMENT OF RANDALL JONES, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Mr. JONES. Thank you, Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse and members of the committee. It is a privilege to appear before you today, and I am deeply honored to have been nominated by President Trump to serve on the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors.

I want to thank my good friend, Senator Tuberville, for the kind introduction and support. I am also appreciative to have the support from Senator Katie Britt, and my long-time friend and hometown Congressman Robert Aderholt.

Speaking of my home town, Guntersville, Alabama, the Mayor of Guntersville, Leigh Dollar, is here, along with several friends from back home. My wife, Deborah, is also here, and I am appreciative for all their support.

I come before you not only as a 50-year resident of Guntersville, Alabama, but as someone who has seen first-hand the vital role the Tennessee Valley Authority plays in balancing the three Es: energy, environment, and economic sustainability. TVA's original mission was to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable power, and that mission remains critical today.

I live on the Guntersville Reservoir in Marshall County, Alabama. In 1935, David Lilienthal, a TVA Board Member, addressed a crowd to hopefully alleviate the anxiety of local farmers and businessmen about the upcoming TVA project, the Guntersville Dam. The meeting was a success and 1 week later the citizens of Marshall County voted for complete cooperation with the project.

The completion of the dam has been cited as the most important event in the history of Marshall County. On November 6th, 1939, the Birmingham News reported that "Guntersville is having a huge industrial expansion." The reporter quoted the Chamber of Commerce president who stated that power rates in Guntersville were reduced 30 percent because of the dam. Even now, our residential power rates remain 30 percent below those of neighboring providers. Hydroelectricity, the original renewable resource, still supplies about 9 percent of TVA's power.

TVA provides power to over 153 power suppliers who in turn service over 10 million customers. From the largest to the smallest, these local power suppliers embody the standard of safety and service.

I have had the privilege of serving on the city of Guntersville Electric Board since 2000. This is one of the smaller electric companies TVA serves. It has given me a greater understanding of the importance of a strong partnership between TVA and the local power companies, as well as the unique challenges those of us serving small, rural populations face.

Also, for the past 18 years I have served on the board of trustees for Jacksonville State University which is a regional school in northeast Alabama serving over 10,000 students. For the past 6 years, I have served as chairman overseeing a budget of over $200

million dollars. In fact, Forbes just named the university as the No. 1 employer domiciled in the State of Alabama.

I have also had the honor to serve on statewide boards over the years appointed by numerous Alabama Governors. The day I became chairman at Jacksonville State I realized that we are responsible to make sure our students' hard-earned tuition dollars are spent wisely to ensure a degree from that university has value. My driving philosophy, passion, humility, and integrity is in all that we do.

I want to bring that same philosophy to the TVA Board. Where we can see a ratepayer, and they know we are good stewards of their hard-earned money and that we support them and generations to come.

Living in Guntersville, I witness daily the natural beauty of our reservoirs. Bald eagles and ospreys, once endangered, are now abundant. White pelicans migrate through our waters, and anglers travel from across the Country to fish our lakes, widely considered among the best bass waters in the Country. Protecting this environment is inseparable from protecting our economy.

Our region in north Alabama is experiencing unprecedented growth. While we welcome high-tech data centers and defense industry growth, we never lose sight of the families who receive a power bill every month, like the grandmother in Asbury, Alabama raising two grandchildren on $800 a month. For her, a 10 percent rate increase on her power bill could mean the difference between a meal or paying her power bill.

Economic sustainability means ensuring that every decision balances opportunity with affordability for the people served.

In closing, the decisions made by TVA today must stand the test of time. These are choices with consequences that will shape our region for the next 100 years.

If confirmed, I am committed to focusing on energy reliability, environmental stewardship, and economic sustainability and ensuring that TVA will continue to fulfill its original mission and improve the lives of generations to come.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Jones follows:]

Statement of Randy Jones

Nominee to the Tennessee Valley Board of Directors

Before the

U.S Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

October 22, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse, and members of the committee. It is a privilege to appear before you today, and I am deeply honored to have been nominated by President Trump to serve on the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors.

I come before you not only as a fifty year resident of Guntersville, Alabama, but as someone who has seen firsthand the vital role the Tennessee Valley Authority plays in balancing the three E's: Energy, Environment, and Economic Sustainability.

TVA's original mission was to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable power, and that mission remains just as critical today. I live on the Guntersville Reservoir in Marshall County, Alabama. In 1935, David Lilenthal, a TVA Board Member, addressed a crowd to hopefully alleviate the anxiety of local farmers and businessmen about the upcoming TVA project, the Guntersville Dam. That meeting was a success and one week later the citizens of Marshall County voted for complete cooperation with the project.

The completion of the dam has been cited as the most important event in the history of Marshall County. On November 6, 1939, the Birmingham News reported that "Guntersville is having a huge industrial expansion." The reporter quoted the Chamber of Commerce president who stated that power rates in Guntersville were reduced 30% because of the dam. Even now, our residential power rates remain 30% below those of neighboring providers.

Hydroelectricity—the original renewable resource—still supplies about nine percent of TVA's power.

Facilities like the Racoon Mountain Pumped Storage Plant prove that energy production facilities can coexist with environmental preservation, as the land surrounding this facility is now designated as a state wildlife observatory and produces 1,650 megawatts of power.

TVA provides power to 153 local power suppliers who in turn service over 10 million customers. From the largest to the smallest, these local power suppliers embody the standard of safety and service.

I have had the privilege of serving on the City of Guntersville Electric Board since 2000. This is one of the smaller local power companies TVA serves. It has given me a greater understanding of the importance of strong partnerships between TVA and the local power companies, and as well as the unique challenges those of us serving small, rural populations face.

Also, for the past 18 years I've served on the Board of Trustees for Jacksonville State University which is a regional school in northeast Alabama serving over 10,000 students. And for the past 6 years, I've served as Chairman overseeing a budget of $200 million dollars. In fact, Forbes just rated the university as the number one employer domiciled in the state of Alabama.

I've also had the honor to serve on statewide Boards over the years appointed by numerous Alabama Governors.

The day I became Chairman at Jacksonville State I realized that we are responsible to make sure our students hard-earned tuition dollars are spent wisely to ensure a degree from this University has value.

And my driving philosophy for this is passion, humility of where we came from, and integrity in all that we do.

And I want to bring that same philosophy to the TVA Board. Where we can see any ratepayer, and they know we are good stewards of their hard-earned money to support them and generations to come.

Living in Guntersville, I witness daily the natural beauty of our reservoirs. Bald eagles and ospreys, once endangered, are now abundant. White pelicans migrate through our waters, and anglers travel from across the nation to fish our lakes, widely considered among the best bass waters in the country. Protecting this environment is inseparable from protecting our economy.

Our region in North Alabama is experiencing unprecedented growth. From Toyota to Google to Blue Origin to Redstone Arsenal, NASA, and defense companies, industries are investing here because of our affordable and dependable power grid and on a navigable river system.

But while we welcome high-tech data centers and defense industry growth, we must never lose sight of families who receive a power bill every month; like the grandmother in Asbury, Alabama raising two grandchildren on $800 a month. For her, a 10 percent rate hike could mean the difference between paying a bill or putting food on the table. Economic sustainability means ensuring that every decision balances opportunity with affordability for the people served.

In closing, the decisions made by TVA today must stand the test of time. These are choices with consequences that will shape our region for the next 100 years. If confirmed, I am committed to focusing on energy reliability, environmental stewardship, and economic sustainability and ensuring that TVA will continue to fulfill its original mission and improve the lives of generations to come. Thank you.

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Hearing Entitled, *"Hearing on the Nominations of Mitch Graves, Jeff Hagood, Randall Jones, and Arthur Graham to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority"*
October 22, 2025
Responses to Questions for the Record for Randall Jones

Senator Husted:

1. Do you believe the Tennessee Valley Authority should remain a public, federally owned utility?

   Yes.

   a. Will you commit to maintaining TVA's current ownership and governance structure, rather than pursuing privatization or outside management?

      Yes.

Senator Whitehouse:

1. TVA's ability to meet its mission depends on long-term planning. Recent dismissals of TVA Board members have raised public concerns about the TVA Board being reshaped by a partisan political agenda. If confirmed to serve on the TVA Board of Directors, will you commit to not acting in a partisan manner when it comes to managing TVA?

   Yes.

2. One way to address load growth from data centers and manufacturing is for customers to bring their own energy generation resources, either through on-site generation or power purchase agreements, to offset their energy demand. To date, TVA has not allowed customers to pursue these options.

   a. Do you commit to explore all available avenues to ensure that power demand growth from data centers within TVA service area is met with zero-emissions sources (including solar, wind, nuclear, and battery storage), including exploring ways to implement bring-your-own generation options?

      I commit to explore all options as TVA reviews their plans for meeting power demand growth.

   b. Do you commit to ensure that costs associated with data center power demand growth are not transferred to other TVA customers?

      Yes.

3. On July 14, as reported in *The Atlantic*, the White House called on the TVA Board to fire the current CEO or be fired themselves.

    a. Would you vote to remove TVA's CEO, or undertake any other change to TVA leadership or personnel, if directed by the White House?

    Any action that I would take regarding the position of the TVA CEO would align with the needs of the organization and the people it serves, and I would aim if confirmed as a TVA Board member to assist the CEO and TVA workforce in fulfilling their roles.

    b. Under what circumstances would you vote to remove TVA's CEO?

    Guided by the TVA Act, the Board will ensure that TVA carries out its mission and acts in accordance with all laws and industry best practices to serve the people of the region. I can commit that any action I would take regarding the selection or removal of the CEO would be within those parameters.

4. If confirmed, will you hold TVA's CEO accountable if they pursue privatization or divestiture of TVA assets?

    Yes.

5. TVA owns more than 16,400 miles of transmission lines, much of which is decades old. Will you advocate for TVA to fully implement reconductoring and grid-enhancing technologies to increase existing transmission capacity alongside new transmission construction where needed? Do you commit to publicly tracking transmission capacity added through upgrades in addition to new miles of line built?

    I think it is important to get as much power out of the current system as possible. I will commit to reviewing the current grid infrastructure and needs of the region to better recognize where both new lines and technology upgrades are warranted.

6. Do you commit to ensuring TVA's upcoming Integrated Resource and Transmission Plans fully evaluate non-wire alternatives, reconductoring, and efficiency measures before authorizing any new fossil fuel generation?

    Yes. I believe all technologies should be evaluated and carefully considered, especially before new investments are made in generation.

7. TVA owns several stranded or underutilized assets, which could be repurposed for renewable generation, battery storage, advanced nuclear reactors, or advanced grid technologies. Before authorizing new fossil fuel projects or acquiring additional land, will you commit to ensuring TVA fully evaluates and utilizes its existing sites and infrastructure to meet capacity needs and community development goals?

    Yes.

8. Will you recuse yourself from any votes relating to any companies in which you hold investments that have business before the TVA?

   I will abide by the Ethics Agreement signed and shared with this Committee.

Senator Sanders:

1. Are you aware that the Building Trades have worked with the TVA since its inception in the 1930s? Will you ensure working men and women in the construction trades are supported by any future actions you take?

   Yes.

2. The Tennessee Valley Authority provides electricity rates cheaper than over 70% of the country, with studies finding that privatization would increase those costs. Do you agree that privatization would raise rates for the ratepayers of the valley?

   Yes.

3. Do you agree that stability of the TVA Board is needed to provide both accountability and responsible leadership in the Valley?

   Yes.

4. TVA was created as a public power model, owned by the people it serves. As we look to the future, do you personally believe TVA should remain publicly owned, or do you see a case for shifting toward private influence or control?

   Yes, I believe TVA should remain publicly owned.

5. The public power model is what makes TVA unique; it's not driven by shareholders but by service to the Valley. Do you support maintaining that public model as the foundation of TVA's mission moving forward?

   Yes.

6. Given TVA's unique public power model and regional mission, do you think it's valuable for board members to have firsthand experience in power generation within the region to better understand the challenges and opportunities TVA faces?

   I have had the privilege of serving on the City of Guntersville Electric Board since 2000. This is one of the smaller local power companies TVA serves. It has given me a greater understanding of the importance of strong partnerships between TVA and the local power companies, and as well as the unique challenges those of us serving small, rural populations face. While other Board members may bring additional valuable experiences, I believe my background in Alabama would benefit TVA.

7. TVA's success depends on its skilled, union workforce, the men and women who keep power flowing safely and reliably across seven states. How will you ensure that TVA continues to maintain strong collective bargaining relationships and protect good-paying union jobs as part of its long-term energy strategy?

   It is going to be critical that TVA has the workforce needed to meet the unprecedented growth that it is seeing in areas such as North Alabama. If confirmed, I will work with the TVA management team to review bargaining agreements, workforce development plans and employment policies to ensure the organization is well-equipped and well-staffed.

8. TVA belongs to the people of the Tennessee Valley, not to Wall Street investors. How will you uphold transparency, public input, and accountability in TVA's decision-making process, especially regarding rate changes, energy generation choices, and long-term infrastructure planning?

   Transparency, public input and accountability is so important to making sure communities trust and support TVA. If confirmed, I would provide oversight and direction to TVA management to always work with those that they serve – to be in the communities, listening to people and sharing information.

9. TVA was founded to deliver affordable, reliable power and good jobs through a public, not-for-profit model that reinvests in the communities it serves. Do you commit to opposing any effort, direct or indirect, to privatize TVA or outsource its core functions to private, profit-driven entities?

   Yes.

10. What steps will you take to ensure that TVA's decisions remain guided by public service and regional development, not short-term profit motives?

    As I shared in my testimony, I understand that the decisions made by TVA today must stand the test of time. These are choices with consequences that will shape our region for the next 100 years. If confirmed, I am committed to ensuring that TVA will continue to fulfill its original mission and improve the lives of generations to come.

11. Will you commit to full transparency and public consultation before any major restructuring, sale, or outsourcing of TVA assets or operations?

    Yes.

12. TVA has historically provided stable, middle-class jobs with fair wages and benefits. What role do you see TVA playing in sustaining and expanding good union jobs in the Valley?

TVA is expanding to meet the needs of the growing energy demand in the Tennessee Valley with new power generation construction projects and new plants to operate and maintain. I think TVA must utilize all types of talent and employees to ensure this needed work meets the growing energy demand with sustained job growth.

13. How will you ensure that energy decisions, such as plant closures or fuel source transitions, do not come at the expense of local jobs or community stability?

As I noted in my testimony, with my background, I understand the unique challenges those of us serving small, rural populations face and this includes workforce and economic sustainability. If confirmed, I would work to make sure TVA is hand-in-hand with any community impacted by plant decisions to make sure their workforce and finances are taken into consideration.

14. In your view, what distinguishes TVA's public mission from that of a private utility, and how could that difference guide your decision-making as a board member?

TVA does not make decisions based on driving up higher profit margins for private shareholders. If confirmed, I will commit to always uphold the TVA Act and its mission to improve the lives of those in the Tennessee Valley.

15. TVA and the Trades and Labor Council for Annual Employees of the Tennessee Valley Authority have a current ten-year recognition agreement through April 29th, 2032. If you are confirmed to serve on the TVA board, will you commit to ensuring the terms of this agreement are upheld by all signatory parties?

If confirmed, I will review this agreement. It is important for TVA to uphold legal agreements, and especially critical that TVA has a strong workforce to support the need for new generation builds across the Valley at this time.

16. The energy business requires a long-term plan to ensure that demand is met with the least cost and the most efficient generation portfolio. This requires a consistent long-term plan that is not subject to partisan politics. With the recent partisan firing of three TVA Board members and your being nominated by the same administration, can you assure the TVA distributors and customers that you will not act in a partisan manner when it comes to managing the public utility?

Yes.

Senator Markey:

1. The TVA Board of Directors has the duty of appointing a Chief Executive Officer. This role is not a political appointment - the TVA Act directs the board to hire a CEO who has expertise in the electric industry, experience in executive management of large, complex organizations, and financial skills.

   a. If confirmed to the TVA Board of Directors, will you commit to ensuring that TVA's CEO meets these statutory qualifications?

      Yes.

   b. If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring that TVA's CEO acts in full compliance with the TVA Act?

      Yes.

   c. If confirmed, will you hold TVA's CEO accountable if he or she pursues privatization or divestiture of TVA assets?

      Yes.

3. The TVA Act says that Board members shall affirm support for the objectives and missions of the Corporation, including being a national leader in technological innovation, low-cost power, and environmental stewardship.

   a. Do you believe the TVA Act and TVA's public power model support TVA's ability to innovate and lead in developing and deploying advanced energy projects and technologies?

      Yes.

   b. If not, what barrier or constraints does the TVA model create?

4. If confirmed, can you assure the TVA distributors and customers that you will not act in a partisan manner when it comes to managing the public utility?

   Yes.

5. If confirmed, do you agree to maintain strong collective bargaining relationships and project labor agreements with TVA workers?

   Yes.

6. In 2022, for the last year we have full available data, TVA emitted 49 million metric tons of CO2.

   a. If confirmed, will you continue to release carbon emissions data for TVA?

   While I know that TVA's current power generation is over fifty percent carbon-free, I am not currently familiar with how TVA releases specific emissions data. I will commit to reviewing this topic, if confirmed, to ensure the public remains aware of TVA's carbon-free power generation.

   b. How do you plan to help TVA reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, if confirmed?

   TVA likely must use all types of power generation to meet the growing power demands for the Tennessee Valley. As I mentioned in my testimony, TVA's original source of renewable energy is hydroelectricity, and it remains around nine percent of TVA's current power system. If confirmed, I look forward to learning more about TVA's plans with particular interest to increasing carbon-free hydroelectric power as well as nuclear – which must be added with urgency.

7. Solar is the cheapest megawatt to build and operate on average, at $58 per megawatt-hour. And building new solar – even solar plus storage – is now cheaper than just running coal plants in the United States. If confirmed, how will you incorporate these economics into TVA's Integrated Resource Plan?

   If confirmed, I plan to review TVA's 2025 Draft Integrated Resource Plan and learn more about the data that feeds into the IRP. TVA likely must use all types of power generation to meet the growing power demands for the Tennessee Valley, including solar where it can support the need affordably and reliably.

8. Congress invested tens of billions of dollars to expand broadband access across the country. Local power companies in the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) service area play an important role in this effort by providing essential infrastructure, including utility poles, that enable broadband deployment. Under the law, TVA exercises oversight authority over the rates charged by its local power companies, including for pole attachments. High pole attachment rates can impose substantial costs on broadband providers, which can slow broadband deployment. I understand that TVA is reviewing or may be considering adjustments to those rates. Does TVA have a process for engaging with the public, including community representatives, consumer advocates, and broadband providers, in its rate-setting deliberations, similar to the stakeholder processes used by state utility commissions and the Federal Communications Commission?

   Being from Guntersville, Alabama, I understand the unique challenges rural communities face, including access to broadband. If confirmed, I plan to work with TVA management to learn more about how TVA's current processes related to broadband are working across the Valley and how needs of the communities could still be addressed in partnership.

9. If confirmed, will you treat FOIA, the Government in the Sunshine Act, and OIG recommendations as baselines, not ceilings, for transparency?

Yes.

10. If confirmed, will you advocate to have board packets and slide decks made publicly available before meetings?

As noted in my testimony, I currently serve and have served on several publicly facing boards. I believe in transparency and if confirmed, I will commit to reviewing the policies of the Board related to sharing information with the public throughout the meeting process.

11. The Tennessee River faces numerous competing demands and challenges, including increasing populations and industrial activity demanding more water from the river, increasing industrial activity polluting the river, the need to keep water levels at an appropriate level so as to allow for the transportation of goods along the river, record-breaking rainfall events due to climate change, recreation interests, and flood control. What expertise or experience do you bring to managing the dams, reservoirs, and locks along the river for multiple uses, as well as ensuring water quality is protected for human health and safety?

I am a fifty-year resident of Alabama, and living in Guntersville, I am on the Tennessee River. This entire reservoir community is built around the TVA Guntersville Dam with the river being the top economic engine for the city and this region. I have constantly witnessed the various uses of the river through bass fishing tournaments to daily barge traffic. My background on the City of Guntersville Electric Board and its direct work with TVA in this unique community allows me to bring insight and understanding of the importance of maintaining a usable and sustainable river system throughout the Tennessee Valley.

12. Just over a year ago, a large portion of the Tennessee Valley was devastated by Hurricane Helene. The storm decimated human infrastructure and reshaped the landscape and waterways across a large area, including portions of Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee and Virginia. TVA played an important role in mitigating the damage to property, managing its dams to protect communities from even more severe flooding.

    a. What expertise or experience do you bring to this role to ensure that TVA is equipped to manage the next major storm that hits the valley?

    Living on the Tennessee River in Guntersville, Alabama, I know TVA is a leader in river management as I mentioned in my testimony - the completion of the Guntersville Dam has been cited as the most important event in the history of Marshall County. On November 6, 1939, the Birmingham News reported that "Guntersville is having a huge industrial expansion." While TVA has managed the Tennessee River system for close to a century, if confirmed, I will want to ensure that TVA is ready to keep maintaining this wonderful river system for the needs of future generations.

    b. Will you commit to prioritizing routine, preventative dam maintenance to avoid dam failures during extreme rainfall events?

    Safety is paramount in all TVA does in both its power generation and river management. If confirmed, I commit to gaining a better understanding of how TVA conducts maintenance and proper reviews of its dams.

Senator Kelly:

1. Roughly 40% of TVA's current power supply comes from nuclear plants, representing about 16 GW of capacity. Despite nuclear energy being a cornerstone of TVA's portfolio, and the current enthusiasm for its expansion, TVA's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan includes only up to 1 GW of additional nuclear capacity by 2050. This raises concerns that TVA may not be able to bring new nuclear generation online at the pace required to meet future demand. Do you believe TVA's current projections reflect an expectation that nuclear development will remain slow or limited in the coming decades?

    On the contrary, I believe there needs to be a real sense of urgency by TVA as well as other companies in the nuclear industry to bring nuclear power online as fast as possible to meet the growing needs of the electric system.

    a. If not, what actions do you believe TVA can take to accelerate the process of getting more nuclear assets on the grid faster?

    As I mentioned, TVA leadership needs to act with a sense of urgency on nuclear projects. While TVA is relying on other companies for design plans and other parts of arrangements related to nuclear deals, if confirmed, I would like to review how TVA is working to ensure timelines are met and shortened as much as possible.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you.

Now we will turn to Mr. Graham.

STATEMENT OF ARTHUR GRAHAM, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Mr. GRAHAM. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Before I start, I have to say I disagree with something that my colleague, Jeff Hagood, said. I believe my mom and my dad were the No. 1 parents in the world.

[Laughter.]

Mr. GRAHAM. With that being said, Madam Chairwoman, Ranking Member, and members of the committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you here today. My name is Art Graham. It is truly an honor and a blessing to have been nominated by the President to serve on the TVA Board of Directors.

In this time of rapid growth, I believe the TVA has an incredible opportunity not just for the Valley but for the Country as a whole.

I want to take a moment to share my life experiences with the Committee. Through my life, I have acquired a set of skills that I will refer to as my tools in my TVA toolbox. I have regulated utilities, both investor-owned and municipals; I have overseen budgets and large organizations; I have managed work force and safety issues; and I have contributed to the national energy policy.

For 15 years, I have served on the Florida Public Service Commission, where I regulate utilities for the State of Florida. During this time, I have dealt with issues such as ensuring adequate generation, we have not had any rolling blackouts, storm hardening, grid reliability, and storm recovery, all while keeping rates affordable for families and businesses.

Let me give you some perspective. Since COVID, we have had a residential growth in my State at a rate of 1,200 people per day. That is 1,200 people per day moving to the State of Florida. During that time, we have had seven hurricanes and still managed to keep rates affordable.

On the national level, I have served on the executive committee and the board of directors for National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). This is where I heard first-hand lessons learned from my peers throughout the United States.

Prior to the Public Service Commission, I served on the city council and county commission of Jacksonville. This is where I learned to deal with municipal utilities from the 12th largest in the U.S. to one of the smallest. I dealt first-hand with the "not in my back yard," or NIMBY issues, like where do we put the power generation, where do we put the substations, where do we put the poles.

I have managed people and large organizations. I was the chief administrative officer for the PSC for over 5 years dealing with human resources, personnel management and the daily operation of a State agency.

For 12 years, I worked in the paper industry, where I learned to deal with unions, Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) requirements, work force and production. I can tell you, when the paper machine goes down, it is all hands-on deck just like

when the power goes out. I will bring this same sense of urgency and operational knowledge with me to the TVA Board.

I believe the above-mentioned tools and my engineering background makes me an valuable member for the President's team to take the TVA forward.

What future, you may ask? I think the TVA has a key role in supporting rapid growth in the Tennessee Valley. Data centers, manufacturing, and residential growth are coming to the Valley at a pace that will require planning and decisive action.

To be successful, the TVA must focus on expanding generation capacity and not prematurely closing down current generation; expanding into new nuclear technologies; and strengthening transmission to ensure reliability.

In short, I believe true TVA leadership in these areas would not be just great for the Valley, but will also serve as a template for the United States as a whole. I believe this fits right into the administration's energy policies.

Once again, I thank you for your time, and I hope I can count on your support.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Graham follows:]

Statement of Arthur Graham

Nominee to the Tennessee Valley Board of Directors

Before the

U.S Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

October 22, 2025

Chair Capito, Ranking Member Whitehouse, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. My name is Art Graham. It is truly an honor to have been nominated by the President to serve on the TVA Board of Directors.

In this time of rapid growth, I believe the TVA has an incredible opportunity not just for the interest of the Valley but for the country as a whole. I want to take a moment to share my life experiences with the Committee. Through my career I have acquired a set of skills that I will refer to as my tools in my TVA toolbox.

I have regulated utilities, both investor owned and municipals; I have overseen budgets and large organizations; managed workforce issues; and contributed to our national utility policy.

For 15 years, I have served on the Florida Public Service Commission, regulating utilities for the State of Florida. One of which serves over ten million customers alone, which is roughly the size of the TVA customer base. During this time, I dealt with issues such as: ensuring adequate generation – we have not had any rolling blackouts in Florida during this time; storm hardening and grid reliability; and storm recovery – all while keeping rates affordable for families and businesses.

Let me give you some perspective: Since COVID, Florida has had a residential growth rate of over 1,200 people a day. We had to deal with seven hurricanes that actually hit the state. Despite those challenges, we have still managed to keep rates affordable.

On the national level, I have served on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. This is where I was able to hear lessons learned from my peers across the United States.

Prior to the Public Service Commission, I served on the Jacksonville City Council and the County Commission in Jacksonville Beach for 11 years. I oversaw municipal utilities ranging from the 12th largest in the U.S. to one of the smallest. I dealt firsthand with "not in my backyard" issues from generation locations to substations.

Managing people and large organizations has been central to my career. I was the Chief Administrative Officer of the PSC for over five years dealing with HR, personnel management and daily operations of a state agency. During my 12 years in the paper industry, I learned to work with unions, OSHA requirements and workforce safety and production. When the paper machine goes down, it's all hands-on deck – the same when the power goes out. I will bring this sense of urgency and operational excellence to the TVA Board.

I believe the above-mentioned tools, along with my engineering background, makes me an invaluable member of the president's team to prepare the TVA for the future. What future you ask? The TVA has a key role in supporting the rapid economic growth of the Tennessee Valley. Data centers, advanced manufacturing, large industries and residential growth are coming to the Valley at a pace that will require bold planning and decisive action.

To be successful, the TVA must focus on expanding generation capacity and not prematurely closing down current generation; expand in new nuclear technologies; and strengthen the transmission system to ensure reliability.

This is why I want to be on the TVA Board of Directors. I believe true TVA leadership in these areas is not just great for the Valley but will also serve as a template for the United States as a whole. And I believe this fits right into the Administration's energy policies. Most importantly, I understand TVA's mission — to provide reliable, affordable electricity that fuels the region's economic growth.

I am grateful for the confidence shown in me through this nomination, and if confirmed, I pledge to bring my experience and dedication to advancing TVA's work in service to the people of the Valley and the industries that drive its prosperity.

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Hearing Entitled, *"Hearing on the Nominations of Mitch Graves, Jeff Hagood, Randall Jones, and Arthur Graham to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority"*

October 22, 2025

Responses to Questions for the Record for Arthur Graham

Senator Husted:

1. Do you believe the Tennessee Valley Authority should remain a public, federally owned utility?

   Yes.

   a. Will you commit to maintaining TVA's current ownership and governance structure, rather than pursuing privatization or outside management?

      I have absolutely no plan to pursue privatization. The decision to privatize would have to be initiated by Congress, and cannot be done by the TVA board.

Senator Whitehouse:

1. TVA's ability to meet its mission depends on long-term planning. Recent dismissals of TVA Board members have raised public concerns about the TVA Board being reshaped by a partisan political agenda. If confirmed to serve on the TVA Board of Directors, will you commit to not acting in a partisan manner when it comes to managing TVA?

   I will act in the best interest of TVA and the people it serves.

2. One way to address load growth from data centers and manufacturing is for customers to bring their own energy generation resources, either through on-site generation or power purchase agreements, to offset their energy demand. To date, TVA has not allowed customers to pursue these options.

   a. Do you commit to explore all available avenues to ensure that power demand growth from data centers within TVA service area is met with zero-emissions sources (including solar, wind, nuclear, and battery storage), including exploring ways to implement bring-your-own generation options?

      Increased demand should be served with the most cost-effective means that will meet the need. Regarding bring-your-own options, a decision on that deserves full examination, weighing potential avoided costs against the benefit to all ratepayers of spreading fixed costs over a larger customer base. As with many decisions the TVA board will face, it would be wrong to pre-judge the outcome of such a complex analysis.

b. Do you commit to ensure that costs associated with data center power demand growth are not transferred to other TVA customers?

Yes. I have experience weighing provisions such as take-or-pay and corporate financial guarantees intended to assure the infrastructure built to support such facilities is paid for by the entity requiring it, even if the project ultimately fails.

3. On July 14, as reported in *The Atlantic*, the White House called on the TVA Board to fire the current CEO or be fired themselves.

a. Would you vote to remove TVA's CEO, or undertake any other change to TVA leadership or personnel, if directed by the White House?

I will act in the best interest of TVA and its customers, and will not pre-judge the evaluation of management performance.

b. Under what circumstances would you vote to remove TVA's CEO?

I would not engage in speculation about removing any member of the management team or circumstances that could warrant it.

4. If confirmed, will you hold TVA's CEO accountable if they pursue privatization or divestiture of TVA assets?

I will hold the CEO accountable for fulfilling his responsibility to plan TVA's future and manage for efficiency, but privatization is not within the CEO's authority.

5. TVA owns more than 16,400 miles of transmission lines, much of which is decades old. Will you advocate for TVA to fully implement reconductoring and grid-enhancing technologies to increase existing transmission capacity alongside new transmission construction where needed? Do you commit to publicly tracking transmission capacity added through upgrades in addition to new miles of line built?

I will advocate for the most cost-effective transmission capacity expansion that meets the need.

6. Do you commit to ensuring TVA's upcoming Integrated Resource and Transmission Plans fully evaluate non-wire alternatives, reconductoring, and efficiency measures before authorizing any new fossil fuel generation?

I commit to ensure the TVA's planning processes will provide for future needs in the most cost-effective way. I have seen non-wire alternatives, reconductoring, and efficiency measures used by Florida utilities in planning cost-effective capacity strategies, and those should be evaluated in TVA's planning process.

7. TVA owns several stranded or underutilized assets, which could be repurposed for renewable generation, battery storage, advanced nuclear reactors, or advanced grid technologies. Before authorizing new fossil fuel projects or acquiring additional land, will you commit to ensuring TVA fully evaluates and utilizes its existing sites and infrastructure to meet capacity needs and community development goals?

   If using existing assets is the most cost-effective way to meet the needs of TVA's customers, they should be used, and in the most productive way.

8. In February 2025, the Florida Public Service Commission unanimously approved charging Duke Energy Florida and Tampa Electric Co. customers over $1.5 billion in storm restoration recovery costs after Hurricanes Idalia, Debby, Helene, and Milton.

   a. Do you agree that climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and leading to rising disaster costs?

      My experience as a utility regulator does not encompass scientific expertise related to storm causation; however, utilities must comply with state and federal laws related to energy and environmental policy, and regulators are responsible for giving them rates that compensate them for the cost of doing so.

   b. Do you agree that climate change is increasing the cost of electricity as damage to generation and transmission infrastructure gets passed on to ratepayers?

      Regarding storm damage to infrastructure, my experience has been that most damage is to distribution systems, rather than generation or transmission infrastructure. Damage to distribution systems ultimately would be borne by ratepayers.

9. You declined to commit to adhering to already-approved retirement plans for the Kingston and Cumberland Coal Generating Stations, to the coal retirement timelines proposed in the draft 2025 IRP, or to TVA's existing goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. Do you believe that TVA should take any action to reduce emissions of fossil fuels which cause climate change? If so, what actions?

   TVA absolutely should comply with state and federal laws – they mandate the relevant energy and environmental policy. Within the bounds of those mandates, the TVA board's job is to assure the organization is run effectively and efficiently to deliver abundant electricity at low cost.

10. How will you protect TVA ratepayers from the increasing costs of climate-fueled disasters?

    Experience has proven to me that there are storm-hardening investments that lessen the damage done by storms, reducing both recovery cost and restoration times. Prudent investments in undergrounding distribution lines in limited areas, steadily replacing poles with more resilient ones, and automating grid control to route power around damage have proven to save money after a storm.

Senator Sanders:

1. Are you aware that the Building Trades have worked with the TVA since its inception in the 1930s? Will you ensure working men and women in the construction trades are supported by any future actions you take?

   Providing reliable and cost-efficient power relies in part on the commitment of the workforce. While the TVA board is responsible for containing costs to the extent possible, good management requires recognizing the value of workers' contribution to the mission.

2. The Tennessee Valley Authority provides electricity rates cheaper than over 70% of the country, with studies finding that privatization would increase those costs. Do you agree that privatization would raise rates for the ratepayers of the valley?

   Privatization's impact on rates is a subject that would require massive expert analysis, so I cannot answer that question without review. However, as a TVA board member, I would uphold the TVA Act. I have absolutely no plan to pursue privatization. Any action or decision on that would be for Congress, not the TVA Board.

3. Do you agree that stability of the TVA Board is needed to provide both accountability and responsible leadership in the Valley?

   Stability and change both contribute to the board's ability to carry out TVA's mission.

4. TVA was created as a public power model, owned by the people it serves. As we look to the future, do you personally believe TVA should remain publicly owned, or do you see a case for shifting toward private influence or control?

   I believe the TVA model is the one that works well for the Tennessee Valley, but whether to pursue privatization is in the domain of Congress.

5. The public power model is what makes TVA unique; it's not driven by shareholders but by service to the Valley. Do you support maintaining that public model as the foundation of TVA's mission moving forward?

   Yes.

6. Given TVA's unique public power model and regional mission, do you think it's valuable for board members to have firsthand experience in power generation within the region to better understand the challenges and opportunities TVA faces?

   Certainly firsthand experience is very valuable to the TVA board, and Congress provided for its strong influence. Congress also provided for up to two members from outside the region, so that TVA wouldn't have to forgo a broader perspective on its board. Adding diverse utility experience to the board lets it collectively make the best decisions for the Tennessee Valley.

7. TVA's success depends on its skilled, union workforce, the men and women who keep power flowing safely and reliably across seven states. How will you ensure that TVA continues to maintain strong collective bargaining relationships and protect good-paying union jobs as part of its long-term energy strategy?

   Part of TVA's mission is the economic well-being of the Valley, and good-paying jobs are part of that contribution.

8. TVA belongs to the people of the Tennessee Valley, not to Wall Street investors. How will you uphold transparency, public input, and accountability in TVA's decision-making process, especially regarding rate changes, energy generation choices, and long-term infrastructure planning?

   As a long-time member of a state Public Service Commission, I have significant experience valuing input from and answering to the public, and if I am confirmed, I will bring that to the TVA Board

9. TVA was founded to deliver affordable, reliable power and good jobs through a public, not-for-profit model that reinvests in the communities it serves. Do you commit to opposing any effort, direct or indirect, to privatize TVA or outsource its core functions to private, profit-driven entities?

   It is Congress, not the TVA board, that will determine whether privatization is pursued.

10. What steps will you take to ensure that TVA's decisions remain guided by public service and regional development, not short-term profit motives?

    I will make every decision for the benefit of the people and businesses of the Tennessee Valley, recognizing that a healthy TVA is in the public's interest.

11. Will you commit to full transparency and public consultation before any major restructuring, sale, or outsourcing of TVA assets or operations?

    It is Congress, not the TVA board, that will determine whether and how privatization would be pursued.

12. TVA has historically provided stable, middle-class jobs with fair wages and benefits. What role do you see TVA playing in sustaining and expanding good union jobs in the Valley?

    Part of TVA's mission is the economic well-being of the Valley, and good-paying jobs are part of that contribution.

13. How will you ensure that energy decisions, such as plant closures or fuel source transitions, do not come at the expense of local jobs or community stability?

    Change always brings challenges to someone, and that impact should be weighed along with the economic needs of TVA in that decision-making.

14. In your view, what distinguishes TVA's public mission from that of a private utility, and how could that difference guide your decision-making as a board member?

I believe the TVA public mission is to provide reliable and affordable power to the TVA area. I believe the mission of the private utility is to provide reliable and affordable power to their customers while making a reasonable rate of return to their investors.

15. TVA and the Trades and Labor Council for Annual Employees of the Tennessee Valley Authority have a current ten-year recognition agreement through April 29th, 2032. If you are confirmed to serve on the TVA board, will you commit to ensuring the terms of this agreement are upheld by all signatory parties?

If confirmed, I would be glad to review that specific recognition agreement and its impact on TVA.

16. The energy business requires a long-term plan to ensure that demand is met with the least cost and the most efficient generation portfolio. This requires a consistent long-term plan that is not subject to partisan politics. With the recent partisan firing of three TVA Board members and your being nominated by the same administration, can you assure the TVA distributors and customers that you will not act in a partisan manner when it comes to managing the public utility?

Yes.

Senator Markey:

1. The TVA Board of Directors has the duty of appointing a Chief Executive Officer. This role is not a political appointment - the TVA Act directs the board to hire a CEO who has expertise in the electric industry, experience in executive management of large, complex organizations, and financial skills.

   a. If confirmed to the TVA Board of Directors, will you commit to ensuring that TVA's CEO meets these statutory qualifications?

      Yes.

   b. If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring that TVA's CEO acts in full compliance with the TVA Act?

      Yes.

   c. If confirmed, will you hold TVA's CEO accountable if he or she pursues privatization or divestiture of TVA assets?

      I believe the privatization of the TVA requires a congressional act. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that the CEO is focusing on providing reliable and affordable power to the Tennessee Valley.

2. The TVA Act says that Board members shall affirm support for the objectives and missions of the Corporation, including being a national leader in technological innovation, low-cost power, and environmental stewardship.

   a. Do you believe the TVA Act and TVA's public power model support TVA's ability to innovate and lead in developing and deploying advanced energy projects and technologies?

      Yes.

   b. If not, what barrier or constraints does the TVA model create?

3. If confirmed, can you assure the TVA distributors and customers that you will not act in a partisan manner when it comes to managing the public utility?

   Yes.

4. If confirmed, do you agree to maintain strong collective bargaining relationships and project labor agreements with TVA workers?

   Part of TVA's mission is the economic well-being of the Valley, and good-paying jobs are part of that contribution.

5. In 2022, for the last year we have full available data, TVA emitted 49 million metric tons of CO2.

   a. If confirmed, will you continue to release carbon emissions data for TVA?

      I believe a well-informed public is the best thing when it comes to power generation.

   b. How do you plan to help TVA reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, if confirmed?

      I believe nuclear power is the key to our future. I will do my best to help facilitate that.

6. Solar is the cheapest megawatt to build and operate on average, at $58 per megawatthour. And building new solar – even solar plus storage – is now cheaper than just running coal plants in the United States. If confirmed, how will you incorporate these economics into TVA's Integrated Resource Plan?

   TVA's IRP involves a great deal of economic analysis, which if confirmed, I will review to assure TVA delivers the most reliable and affordable power we can.

7. Congress invested tens of billions of dollars to expand broadband access across the country. Local power companies in the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) service area play an important role in this effort by providing essential infrastructure, including utility poles, that enable broadband deployment. Under the law, TVA exercises oversight authority over the rates charged by its local power companies, including for pole attachments. High pole attachment rates can impose substantial costs on broadband providers, which can slow broadband deployment. I understand that TVA is reviewing or may be considering adjustments to those rates. Does TVA have a process for engaging with the public, including community representatives, consumer advocates, and broadband providers, in its rate-setting deliberations, similar to the stakeholder processes used by state utility commissions and the Federal Communications Commission?

If confirmed, I will review that question with TVA management, and would be glad to provide an answer and feedback following that review.

8. If confirmed, will you treat FOIA, the Government in the Sunshine Act, and OIG recommendations as baselines, not ceilings, for transparency?

I will commit to complying with the letter as well as the spirit of the federal requirements.

9. If confirmed, will you advocate to have board packets and slide decks made publicly available before meetings?

See answer to 8.

10. The Tennessee River faces numerous competing demands and challenges, including increasing populations and industrial activity demanding more water from the river, increasing industrial activity polluting the river, the need to keep water levels at an appropriate level so as to allow for the transportation of goods along the river, record-breaking rainfall events due to climate change, recreation interests, and flood control. What expertise or experience do you bring to managing the dams, reservoirs, and locks along the river for multiple uses, as well as ensuring water quality is protected for human health and safety?

I am a chemical engineer by trade, and I have worked with power plant effluents and potable water standards for the last 30 years of my career. I will bring this experience with health and safety standards to the TVA Board.

11. Just over a year ago, a large portion of the Tennessee Valley was devastated by Hurricane Helene. The storm decimated human infrastructure and reshaped the landscape and waterways across a large area, including portions of Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee and Virginia. TVA played an important role in mitigating the damage to property, managing its dams to protect communities from even more severe flooding.

    a. What expertise or experience do you bring to this role to ensure that TVA is equipped to manage the next major storm that hits the valley?

    As a regulator I have overseen utility preparations for storms for 15 years.

    b. Will you commit to prioritizing routine, preventative dam maintenance to avoid dam failures during extreme rainfall events?

    Preventive maintenance and storm hardening are the keys to dealing with any foreseeable storm event.

Senator Kelly:

1. Roughly 40% of TVA's current power supply comes from nuclear plants, representing about 16 GW of capacity. Despite nuclear energy being a cornerstone of TVA's portfolio, and the current enthusiasm for its expansion, TVA's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan includes only up to 1 GW of additional nuclear capacity by 2050. This raises concerns that TVA may not be able to bring new nuclear generation online at the pace required to meet future demand. Do you believe TVA's current projections reflect an expectation that nuclear development will remain slow or limited in the coming decades?

   I believe the current draft integrated resource plan needs to be thoroughly reviewed and adjustments made before findings are confirmed and it is finalized.

   a. If not, what actions do you believe TVA can take to accelerate the process of getting more nuclear assets on the grid faster?

      This situation calls for strong board leadership. TVA needs to move boldly to advance its SMR plans, aggressively working with the NRC to cut through bureaucracy. It should also leverage every longer-term strategy for avoiding getting bogged down, such as co-locating SMRs on existing nuclear sites that already have nuclear site approval.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you.

Before we begin questions, I would like, I have three standard questions I want to ask. I will go down the dais here to get a nod or a response.

Do you agree, if confirmed, to appear before this committee, designated members of this committee, and other appropriate committees of this Congress to provide information subject to appropriate and necessary security protections with respect to your responsibilities? Mr. Graves?

Mr. GRAVES. Yes, I do, Senator.

Senator CAPITO. Mr. Hagood?

Mr. HAGOOD. Yes, I do Senator.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you. Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. Yes, I do, Senator.

Senator CAPITO. Mr. Graham?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes, I do, Senator.

Senator CAPITO. Okay. Do you agree to ensure that testimony, briefings, documents, and electronic and other forms of communication of information are provided to this committee, its staff and other appropriate committees in a timely manner?

Mr. GRAVES. Yes, I do, Senator.

Senator CAPITO. Mr. Hagood?

Mr. HAGOOD. Yes, I do Senator.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you. Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. Yes, I do, Senator.

Senator CAPITO. Mr. Graham?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you.

Finally, do you know of any matters which may or may not have been disclosed that may place you in a conflict of interest if you are confirmed?

Mr. GRAVES. I do not, Senator.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you. Mr. Hagood?

Mr. HAGOOD. I do not, Chairman.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you.

Mr. JONES. No, Chairman.

Senator CAPITO. Mr. Graham?

Mr. GRAHAM. I do not.

Senator CAPITO. All right, thank you very much.

I am going to ask a question here, and I am going to, No. 1, I think all of your opening statements were really, really good. I thank the families and friends and others who are here in support of you. I know filling out the forms and being able to meet all the standards is no picnic here.

You have had a long trek to get here, and we appreciate it, and I know the support that others offer you is very valuable. Thank you for that.

The Tennessee Valley power demand, I mentioned this in my opening statement, is projected to grow in the coming years. TVA's draft Integrated Resource Plan anticipates 26 gigawatts of new baseload energy generation capacity is needed over the next decade to ensure system reliability.

Two questions. What do you see as the primary challenges to TVA providing affordable, reliable energy, and how would you work to address those challenges? I will start with Mr. Graves.

Mr. GRAVES. Thank you for the question, Senator. You are right, the grid growth needs to happen, especially with AI and other things being added to the system.

I think the Integrated Resource Plan is a critical tool to understanding what that demand is going to look like and what the portfolio should look like to be able to deliver that power. When I was at MLG&W, we did an integrated resource plan as well.

The affordability, that is the core mission of TVA, is to provide affordable, reliable electricity. That has to be at the core of how we look at that.

I do think nuclear power is going to have to play an extremely important part, and that is a costly venture to go into. There are things we will have to look at as a board of how we fund that going forward.

Senator CAPITO. Right. Thank you.

Mr. Hagood?

Mr. HAGOOD. Yes, Senator. Thank you for that question.

I agree in large part with my colleague. Our best hope is nuclear. I am bullish that the new Small Modular Reactors (SMR) technology, it has been around for a while, it gives me opportunity for hope. It is clear and I am hopeful about that.

The International Registration Plan (IRP) that my colleague just mentioned is a critical thing that we are going to have to tackle as a board, if confirmed. That is a very, very critical thing.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you.

Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. Yes, Senator. If confirmed, I will commit to continue looking to carbon-free future technology and also increase the hydropower and the nuclear, which on the nuclear end of it, we need a sense of urgency.

Senator CAPITO. All right. Mr. Graham? Did you have a comment on what the problems might be to—how are we going to get to these exponential gigawatts that we need to at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)? You have probably dealt with this in Florida. What are the stumbling blocks? If you have a comment on that.

Mr. GRAHAM. Thank you, Chairman. I think No. 1 is to make sure that the numbers that people are talking about are legitimate. Is this a pipe dream, or is this actually going to come true? I believe it is, but——

Senator CAPITO. Do you mean on the gigawatt side, do we really need all of that?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes.

Senator CAPITO. Okay.

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes. I think that needs to be verified and make sure that we have dotted our Is and crossed our Ts.

I think the biggest opportunity, as some of my colleagues have said, is going to be nuclear, especially the SMRs. I think that is one of the things I am mostly excited about being on the TVA, because I think we have the opportunity to make that happen and try to make it happen as quick as we can. I think once we have done that, then we can use that as the template for everything else.

I have seen what happened in Georgia with Vogtle, and how long that took. It went $16 billion over budget and it took an extra 6 years. Nobody wants to be the next one going down that path.

Senator CAPITO. Right.

Mr. GRAHAM. I think SMRs is going to be the solution to that. I think TVA is in a position to be on top of that and have that sense of urgency to move forward with it.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you.

I am going to start with you this time. On economic development, I am particularly interested in this aspect of it, being an Appalachian myself, not served by the TVA but some very similar regions and pockets of our States that still have not developed.

How do you see TVA being able to continue that mission but maybe change the mission, change the way the mission is delivered maybe for those remaining areas of the TVA Authority's area that have yet to be touched and being able to be a beneficiary of the economic development opportunities?

Mr. GRAHAM. Thank you, Senator, for that question. I think personally, TVA is primed for growth, is primed for opportunity.

I have come from manufacturing, I have had several years working in paper mills, several years working around power boilers. I think the main thing you are going to need, you are going to need land, you are going to need access to water. I think TVA and the Valley area has an abundance of that.

I think you could bring in opportunities that maybe can not fit other places, that will not fit in New York City, that will not fit some places in Miami, that sort of thing. I think it is just a matter of making sure you chase after the right industries that fit in those locations.

I can tell you, being in Jacksonville, we are a very pro-military town and we have a lot of blue-collar people that put in their 20 years and are looking for something to do afterwards. We used to argue all the time, do we chase after Google or Microsoft, or do we chase after some of these manufacturing outfits? We have the work force there that can come in, go to work every single day and do the job. They have already proved it by serving our Country for 20 years.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you.

Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. Thank you for that question. It is near and dear to my heart, living in Guntersville, Alabama, being in a rural area, knowing what it takes to run a power line out to a mobile home that is a quarter mile off the main road, and making sure they have sustainable, affordable power and that those folks are taken care of.

At the same time, partnering with the local power companies. Weatherization, the solar programs on rooftops, working that way right there and the partnering, I think, with the local power companies is very important as far as the economy and economic growth.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you.

Mr. Hagood?

Mr. HAGOOD. Thank you for that question.

Senator, when I heard you ask that question, I could not help but think about broadband. Broadband was not, of course, in the TVA Act of 1933. TVA is not in the broadband business. TVA ought to do everything that they can to help local telecoms and the local power providers, make that happen, particularly in the rural areas, which I grew up in a rural area. It is very near and dear to my heart.

Senator CAPITO. I agree with that wholeheartedly.

Mr. Graves?

Mr. GRAVES. Thank you, Senator. The TVA Act was for rural communities, and to serve them not just with electricity but bring economic development to those areas. We see that happening today in the Tennessee Valley. A great example is the BlueOval, the Ford plant in Brownsville, Tennessee, which is a rural community, that has brought jobs and economic development.

I do not think it is changing the mission; I think it is refocusing back on our original mission. Thank you.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you.

Mr. Whitehouse?

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Senator Kelly is here under a bit of a time crunch. If the Chairman will permit, I will let him go ahead.

Senator CAPITO. Oh, sure. Senator Kelly, go forward.

Senator KELLY. Thank you, Madam Chair, thank you, Senator Whitehouse and thank you to all the nominees for being here today. It was nice to see you all in my office yesterday. I wanted to talk about one of the topics we discussed in that meeting, which is the data center construction across the Country.

My understanding is that TVA, that region uses about 17,000 megawatt hours of energy on an hourly basis right now. Some reports indicate that the TVA region is seeing demand from data centers that could add an additional 11,000 megawatt hours to what is currently being used.

While acknowledging that these estimates may be bullish, we can reasonably expect that the region will need to significantly increase the amount of power that it produces and the energy it consumes.

I recently put out a policy framework called AI for America, which argues that utilities need to make sure that the cost of adding new generation capacity is borne by these large power users, not families and not small businesses who sometimes have to struggle to pay their utility bills. This could include innovative power purchase agreements that better account for up-front costs and encourages long-term investments to make our aging grid more resilient.

I would like to hear from each of you on this. How would you handle the unprecedented demand from data centers in the TVA region and how will you protect ratepayers; how would you protect them from rate hikes caused by the increased demand?

We will start with Mr. Graves.

Mr. GRAVES. Thank you for that question, Senator.

One hundred percent agree with you. It cannot be on the back of ratepayers. I come from Memphis, Tennessee. We have an extremely high poverty level. Loading on more utility expense to the backs of their paycheck is just not doable.

I do agree with you, power purchase agreements are something that this board will need to look at. Again, AI is out of the bag. It is not going back in. We have to figure out how to deal with that, and the energy demands for that.

Thank you.

Senator KELLY. Mr. Hagood?

Mr. HAGOOD. Thank you, Senator, for that question. I certainly enjoyed the few minutes with you yesterday. Thank you for that.

I totally agree; costs should not be borne by large corporations and passed onto the back of our ratepayers. I am on the other end of the State from my colleague here to my right. I grew up in a very rural area. That is a very important issue to me, and thank you for that question.

Senator KELLY. Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. Thank you, and I enjoyed time with you yesterday. On the data centers, that is all we are hearing about now, data centers everywhere. However, when they come in, what is it going to cost to supply the power for that? What if they leave 5 years from now and we are left holding the bag?

There has to be a partnership, through bonds, or a bond for them to say, hey, if you are not here longer than 20 years, you are going to pay for this power, because we cannot put it on the backs of the grandmother in Asbury, Alabama, that is trying to feed two children.

Senator KELLY. Mr. Graham?

Mr. GRAHAM. Thank you, Senator. In observance of the time, I agree with my colleagues. We have something we call cost causation. Basically the cost causer is the one that has to support all that cost. We have to figure out an effective way of making sure that happens.

Senator KELLY. Do each of you agree that maybe we should consider a separate rate class for data centers?

Mr. GRAVES. Thank you for the question, Senator. I think that is something that the board would explore in the future.

Senator KELLY. Okay.

Mr. HAGOOD. Senator, thank you for that question. I think that is very worthy of consideration. If confirmed, I certainly would look into that and be happy to report back to you about that.

Senator KELLY. Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. Absolutely a different rate class, but at the same time, I hope that the data centers pay for their own power that they have provided themselves.

Senator KELLY. All right. Then finally, this unprecedented demand for new energy, and it is significant, we might have to double, in Maricopa County, the amount available. I think we need an approach that looks at all available, most available options. Some gas, nuclear, hydropower, and renewables, certainly, like solar and wind.

Quickly, in the remaining time, do each of you feel that we should consider renewable energy, like solar, wind, battery storage, as part of the solution?

Mr. GRAVES. Thank you for the question, Senator. Yes, I think we have to look at all energy generation. We are not going to have any option but to look at everything.

Senator KELLY. Mr. Hagood?

Mr. HAGOOD. Yes, Senator, thank you. Everything should be on the table.

Senator KELLY. Right. Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. Absolutely, yes, sir.

Senator KELLY. Mr. Graham?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes, Senator, I think a diverse grid is a resilient grid. I agree.

Senator KELLY. All right. Thank you all, and thank you, Madam Chair.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you.

Senator Wicker?

Senator WICKER. Thank you, Madam Chair. I am going to use some of that same stretched 5 minutes that our distinguished Chair used.

I am from Mississippi. We already have our member on the board, Bill Renick, who was chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority board. His term does not expire until 2027. I am glad that Tennessee is getting two more, and now Alabama will have its share.

Mississippi is actually the second highest user of TVA. Tennessee has 52 percent of the total area covered by TVA, and after that is Mississippi at 19 percent, Alabama down at 11. We are not Tennessee, totally TVA, we can compare. I can just say that TVA, where it is available in Mississippi, is quite appreciated and quite popular.

There was some statement made about acting boldly and I certainly want to commend, and I think I see from the testimony, Madam Chair, Mr. Ranking Member, that there is much appreciation for the bold action of TVA in recent years.

The Clinch River project will be one of the first, at the forefront of new nuclear development in the United States, currently, two to 3 years ahead of anyone else in terms of SMRs.

In my own State of Mississippi, we are benefiting from the rates that give us economic expansion, GE Aerospace that just recently expanded in Panola County, near Batesville, the Golden Triangle, Columbus, Starkville and West Point, home of Mississippi State University there in Starkville is now home to five TVA certified mega sites. TVA is advancing plans to build a simple cycle nuclear, I mean natural gas plant.

It is just astounding, the things that are happening. When complete, the New Caledonia site in East Mississippi will bring 500 megawatts to the grid, enough to power 250,000 homes, which is quite a big area in a rural State like Mississippi.

There is a company called OKLO which is out of Oak Ridge, in Mr. Hagood's neighborhood. It has an advanced nuclear technology company that will invest nearly $1.7 billion to build fuel recycling right there in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The folks there are thrilled about this, and it again, speaks to the vision of the current and past leadership. The facility is located on a 247-acre site at Oak Ridge Heritage Center.

There is also an outfit called ENTRA1 Energy, that will collaborate with TVA to provide up to 6 gigawatts of new nuclear power generation onsites in TVA's seven-State region. This will eventually

be able to power the equivalent of approximately 4.6 million homes, or 60 of these new power consuming data centers, which we are all concerned about and which I join my friend, Mr. Kelly, from.

Google, Kairos, they are bringing transformational change in the nuclear energy area field to TVA. TVA is the first U.S. utility to sign a (Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to buy electricity from advanced generation 4 reactor, and Hermes 2 is the first deployment under Kairos' Power landmark deal with Google.

I could go on and on. Not to mention the charities and non-profits that TVA supports. TVA Bicentennial Volunteers, $655,000 in robotics awards. Yes, TVA prices are still something that we benefit from in Appalachia, Madam Chair. I certainly appreciate that.

I am so impressed, and I am going to take some extra time if you do not mind, and I know my friend from Massachusetts will not mind, because I listened to him for over an hour yesterday in the Commerce Committee.

[Laughter.]

Senator WICKER. He is a dear friend of mine.

Let me just, going through the testimony today, Mr. Graves knows it well, and I grew up watching Memphis TV, I am so old that we did not have TV in Tupelo, we had to watch Memphis until I got on up to the teenage years. I know about MLGW.

Mr. Graves said Memphis and the Valley region are well served by TVA. Thank you for saying that. We can do better, but I think most people in the Memphis viewing area and in MLGW area agree with that.

Madam Chair, Mr. Hagood's testimony is they had an opportunity to look at other providers that made outreach to them and said no, we are going to stick with TVA, because they have served us better and they will serve us better.

Mr. Hagood says, "Today, TVA continues to drive energy production, economic development and access to natural resources across the region." Mr. Jones, as somebody who frequently goes by Lake Guntersville and who, every chance I get, goes to Pickwick Reservoir in the northeast corner of the State of Mississippi, yes, I mean, we love TVA's power generation and yes, almost 10 percent is still hydropower, and that is renewable as far as I am concerned.

That wonderful Lake Guntersville, that is an economic engine for the area and the same for Pickwick Reservoir. Mr. Jones says, "Even now our residential power rates remain 30 percent below those of neighboring providers." This is a great testimony and kudos to the President, my colleagues, for bringing someone in from outside the TVA area to bring some new thought.

Mr. Graham, he knows what he is doing, it is obvious, because he has been doing this in Jacksonville. He is also aware of this NIMBY issue. In his testimony he says he is aware of the "not in my back yard" people. There has to be a balance here, because somebody's back yard has got to generate power, and we need to be mindful of those folks but we also need to be mindful, it has to come from somewhere.

Also, I appreciate Mr. Graham saying we can not prematurely close down current generation and make the contribution to generation that Mr. Kelly and others have alluded to. We are going to

have to do it right and yes, nuclear and renewable is the way to go.

I appreciate the acknowledgement from these fine witnesses who I intend to vote for in acknowledging the contribution and the great work that TVA has done and yes, the economic development and jobs are there. I look forward to the board, which has been working mighty hard, but now they have a quorum, being complemented by these witnesses.

Thank you for that extended 5 minutes, Madam Chair.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you.

Senator Whitehouse?

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Thanks very much, Chairman, and welcome to all the nominees. Thank you for your visit to my office yesterday.

Unlike Mr. Hagood, I did not have the wisdom to start my own practice, but spent my early years as the junior new kid in the attorney general's office where they came in and handed me utility regulation. Nobody else wanted it. I was the new kid; I had to do it.

I have learned a lot from those early days. One of the things I have learned is that the way the grid works is that usually nukes run constantly because they are low marginal cost, and then usually solar comes on next, because it is the next lower operating cost, followed by wind and then the grid price set by the most expensive unit that has to be called up is almost always a fossil fuel unit.

If you remove clean energy from the grid, what you are doing is requiring for the same level of demand that more and more expensive fossil fuel powered units get called up. That raises costs for everybody on the grid, in most grids where that last unit called up is the price setter.

Now, I know it is a little bit different on the TVA grid where you use a more blended grid. I think the principle holds that if you suppress the lower cost forms of power, you drive prices up for your ratepayers even if it is only on an average basis and not on a grid-wide basis.

In that light, I would like to ask if each of you will honor the board-approved retirement timelines for the Kingston and Cumberland coal generating stations? We can just go right across, if you do not mind.

Mr. GRAVES. Thank you for that question, Senator. I think it is a little bit more complicated than answering yes or no. I think we have got to use all of our energy sources right now to meet the demand.

I think you heard me mention earlier the Integrated Resource Plan which ought to be the strategy document for TVA. We have looked at that at a very high level. We are going to have to dig into the details.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Do you plan to honor the existing Integrated Resource Plan? Or are you going to change that?

Mr. GRAVES. Senator, I think we will have a new Integrated Resource Plan here within the year.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Okay. Is that pretty much the same answer across the board? Anybody prepared to commit to honoring the Cumberland and Kingston Station Plan?

Mr. HAGOOD. Thank you, Senator. My answer would be the same as my colleague on the right.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Mr. Jones, the same?

Mr. JONES. Until I am confirmed, I would like to look into this and see, because I do believe in the renewables and carbon-free.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Mr. Graham? Same?

Mr. GRAHAM. Pretty much the same, sir.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. One of the other things I wanted to ask you, we talked about this a little bit when we were together, if you go to the Kingston Station and the Cumberland Station, they boil water with coal. The steam then runs through steam turbines and that runs generators that send out power through transformers that link to the grid connections and the transmission lines. In addition to all of that mechanical-electrical infrastructure, you also have the all-important community infrastructure of the work force there, the men and women who have the expert knowledge and experience to run those facilities.

I want to ask each of you to assure me that you will give an honest, hard look at whether small modular reactors create the opportunity to boil that water at those stations and protect the rest of the infrastructure and the work force around it while still meeting the board-approved goals regarding those two stations.

Mr. GRAVES. Ranking Member, we talked about that yesterday. I found that to be an intriguing concept. Yes, I think we should explore that. It should lower costs of the program as well and timeframe if we can leave portions of it in place and only replace the heating element.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. If you are trying to locate a new small modular system station somewhere, and you have to start from scratch, and you have to deal with siting issues and you have to build the steam turbines, the generators, the transformers, the transmission and the work force, you are in a much different proposition than you are if most of that is already there and you are just boiling water a new, cleaner, safer way.

Mr. GRAVES. Senator, as I said, yes, I found that intriguing. It was a takeaway——

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Will you take an honest look at it?

Mr. GRAVES. Yes, sir, Senator, thank you. I certainly would take an honest, hard look at it.

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir, and to me again, we talk about nuclear. We have got to have a sense of urgency to make this happen and then to put it in place.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Mr. Graham?

Mr. GRAHAM. Senator, thank you. I think it is a fantastic idea. I have talked about before about when you are talking about new nuclear and you have to "nuclearize" the entire site, I do not think you need to do that. I think you just do a black box, you just do, where the power is generated, you do not have to worry about the water and the steam generation. You do not have to worry about anything on this side, just that area.

I think in your scenario, you can take the same black box and put it anywhere. I think it is a great way of retrofitting old plants.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. My time is expired. Let me ask each of you to be responsive to the questions for the record that I am going to file for you to answer, so you can take more than 5 minutes and reflect a bit first.

In particular, I am going to be asking you to reflect on the fact that I believe is true, that if you suppress wind and solar power and perhaps battery support for wind and solar power, you are virtually inevitably raising costs for your TVA ratepayers at the end of the day.

Thank you.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you.

Senator Markey?

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Madam Chair.

I am a big fan of public power. I know communities and labor are as well. Why? It is a win-win-win. Public power puts local communities before investor profits. It pays workers what they deserve and it keeps energy affordable. In fact, because of its public power model, the Tennessee Valley Authority's electricity is cheaper thank over 70 percent of our Nation.

Yes or no, going down the line, do you support the privatization of TVA? Yes or no.

Mr. GRAVES. No.

Mr. HAGOOD. Thank you, Senator, for that question. The answer is no, sir.

Mr. JONES. No, sir.

Mr. GRAHAM. Senator, thank you very much for that question. I have experienced both public utility and investor-owned utility. I think there is absolutely no reason to do anything different here.

Senator Markey, . The answer is no?

Mr. GRAHAM. I believe that is correct. Yes.

Senator MARKEY. Good. Thank you. I appreciate it.

I just want to dig a little deeper. Yes or no, going down the line, do you agree, do you agree not to sell of any portions of the service region, including transmission, hydro or public land assets?

Mr. GRAVES. Senator, I do not think that is the board's decision. I think we uphold the TVA Act, which is enacted by you guys.

Senator MARKEY. Do you agree not to sell off any of the portions of the service region, Mr. Hagood?

Mr. HAGOOD. Senator, I agree with my colleague; that would be my answer. Thank you, sir.

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir, I do not see any reason why to sell of TVA's assets off.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you. That is the correct answer, yes.

Mr. GRAHAM. Sir, until I hear something different, I do not see any need to make any changes as far as selling off assets.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you.

At a time when utility bills are going up across the Country because of Trump's anti-energy policies, it is more important than ever to have public power that is responsive to the region's Main Street needs, not Wall Street shareholders. Privatization would be a direct threat to both TVA customers and TVA's work force.

Yes or no, going down the line, do you agree to maintain strong collective bargaining relationships and protect good-paying union jobs? Mr. Graves?

Mr. GRAVES. Thank you, Senator. I have not read the collective bargaining, but I agree to do that and make a decision after I fully understand it.

Senator MARKEY. Mr. Hagood?

Mr. HAGOOD. Senator, thank you for that question. I believe that TVA's employees, as of maybe 6 months or a year ago, were 55, 57 percent union. The answer is yes.

Senator MARKEY. You would make a commitment to continue collective bargaining?

Mr. HAGOOD. I would make every commitment to look into that.

Senator MARKEY. That is not a commitment.

Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir, I would.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, sir.

Mr. GRAHAM. Senator, I think it is working very well right now. I have no desire to get in there and make that change.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, sir. Yes, we need a commitment to public power. We need a commitment to public power employees, union workers who are doing the job right now.

This is an astonishing number, but only 4 percent of TVA's energy portfolio is currently comprised of wind or solar. Just a staggeringly low number.

By comparison, in my own home State of Massachusetts, where Senator Schiff was born and raised as a boy, still a Red Sox fan, it is not the sunniest place, Massachusetts. Last year, 25 percent of our electricity came from wind and solar. Only 4 percent in the TVA, where it is a lot sunnier.

The good news is that the TVA has a large stock of carbon-free power and has recognized the benefits of moving toward clean, reliable, affordable energy, setting a target of 10,000 megawatts of solar by 2035 and net-zero emissions by 2050.

Yes or no, going down the line, do you commit to adhering to TVA's target to reach net-zero emissions by 2050? Mr. Graves?

Mr. GRAVES. Senator, that is tough to answer yes or no to. I think we are in the middle of an Integrated Resource Plan which is taking a look at future demand and our energy generation——

Senator MARKEY. TVA has a stated goal to be net-zero by the year 2050. Do you commit to fulfilling that plan?

Mr. GRAVES. Senator, I commit to making sure we have got enough power to take care of our citizens.

Senator MARKEY. You are not committing.

Mr. Hagood?

Mr. HAGOOD. Senator, thank you for that question. I think because of the great power need, I think that probably has to be reevaluated.

Senator MARKEY. Yes, I think I can hear what the two of you are saying pretty clearly.

Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. Senator, currently over 50 percent of the power generated by TVA is carbon-free. We hope to keep on striving on that.

Also, on the 4 percent, I would love to also include hydro, which is the original renewable resource.

Senator MARKEY. I appreciate that. How about——

Mr. JONES. That makes us 13 percent.

Senator MARKEY. Is the answer yes?

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Senator MARKEY. You commit to that goal?

Mr. JONES. I commit to see what we can—I can not promise that is going to happen because of the need for power.

Senator MARKEY. Four percent renewables is all you have right now.

Mr. JONES. Needs to be a go.

Senator MARKEY. It is sad. Yes, sir, Mr. Graham.

Mr. GRAHAM. Thank you, Senator. Can I get you to repeat the question, please?

Senator MARKEY. Yes. The question is, do you commit to adhering to TVA's target to reach net-zero emissions by 2050? It is the existing goal of the TVA. Do you commit to adhering to that?

Mr. GRAHAM. I commit to looking into it.

Senator MARKEY. Well, again, TVA should be the cutting edge leader. They are already on third base with a lead. You have incredible resources down there. It is sunny almost every day in that region, which it is not in Massachusetts.

I think it is a pretty sad commentary that we are not getting a more enthusiastic response to the goal of deploying renewables and meeting the goal, which was established years ago, which is eminently achievable. It is just still a continuing sad commentary on the vision which the TVA has.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Senator CAPITO. Senator Schiff?

Senator SCHIFF. Thank you, Madam Chair. As is often the case, Senator Markey asked many of the questions I was going to ask. I will not repeat those questions for you.

I appreciate the opportunity we had to meet in my office. I share Senator Markey's view; public power has helped keep energy affordable in TVA. It has attracted industry, it has strengthened rural communities for decades, going back to the establishment of the TVA under Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal.

I think that public power model is the best path forward for TVA, and I was glad to hear in our conversations and again in committee that you are committed to retaining the public power model.

I strongly disagree with any effort at privatization of TVA assets or moving away, selling away the resources of TVA, which has proven so successful. I also think it is vitally important that you honor the collective bargaining agreements that are in force, and that you make it possible for people to collectively bargain and make the choice to form a union or not form a union, that that be free and unfettered.

Let me turn to the last topic the Senator asked you about, but maybe with one specific. I understand that the TVA board approved the retirement of two of the four coal plants in TVA's service area. The 2025 TVA Integrated Resource Plan forecast that all coal units will retire by 2035. Are you committed to maintaining

a course with the 2025 Integrated Resource Plan when it comes to coal retirement? Mr. Graves?

Mr. GRAVES. Thank you for the question, Senator. I do believe we need to maintain as a public utility company.

It may be a struggle to meet those targets, just because of the increased demand. Again, we hope to be able to learn more and figure out how to move forward with our Integrated Resource Plan, which is going to tell us what we need and how we fulfill that need. I think right now it may be hard to make those targets.

Senator SCHIFF. Well, I think a lot of that increased demand may come from data centers. In connection with negotiations over companies that want to establish data centers, there is an opportunity for you to maintain the climate goals that have been set and to maintain the retirement schedule that has been set for the coal plants.

I do not think generically increased demand is a reason to continue coal plants that have properly been scheduled for retirement.

Mr. Hagood, what is your view?

Mr. HAGOOD. Senator, thank you, and thank you for meeting with us yesterday. I do think it would be hard to meet those goals.

Senator SCHIFF. You are not committed to retiring the coal plants, then?

Mr. HAGOOD. With the situation with the great power demand in our Country, Senator, I do not think I can.

Senator SCHIFF. If it is necessary to accommodate new data centers, your view would be, let us keep the coal plants going, rather than, let us require the data centers to participate in generation of cleaner energy?

Mr. HAGOOD. Senator, thank you. My goal would be to, everything is on the table to meet the power, the growing power demand. That would be my answer.

Senator SCHIFF. Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. Senator, if confirmed, this will be one of my top priorities, to look into this. The data centers are going to require so much power. There was an article in the Wall Street Journal this week about bringing your own power.

Hopefully, those data centers can be bringing in the renewables, carbon-free power to sustain the power for them, which in turn would take less stress off of our grid and our power generations and increase more solar power and hydro. I am a big fan of hydro.

Senator SCHIFF. Mr. Jones, I agree to a point, and that is when you say you would hope that these new data centers and the companies behind them would bring in renewable energy. You will have the power to insist that that is where the new energy comes from.

Mr. JONES. Exactly.

Senator SCHIFF. Your communities are going to suffer whatever deleterious impacts there are from these data centers. They may not create many jobs. If it is going to mean the coal plants remain open longer and people suffer the ill health effects, and do not get many jobs as a result, that does not look like a good bargain to me.

I would ask you to keep that very much in mind.

Mr. Graham, did you want to add anything on the question?

Mr. GRAHAM. Senator, thank you very much for that question.

Data centers are all over the board. There are people that are excited about it, there are people that do not want it in their back yard. I think, and you were not here earlier, we talked about the No. 1 job that is going to be for us to figure out how much power generation we are going to need moving forward, today, tomorrow, next year, 5 years.

Then once we figure out how much we need generation-wise, I can not see prematurely closing out some of these other plants until we have the generation to replace it. I am not saying you can not close them down, but until we have the generation to replace it, you can not.

Senator SCHIFF. Well, thank you, Madam Chair.

I would just say, just to conclude, I am glad you all expressed solid support for maintaining the public character of TVA. I hope never to learn that, should you be confirmed for these positions, that you do an about-face on that issue, which is of signal importance to me and to I think a lot of the Members of Congress.

With that, Madam Chair, I yield back.

Senator CAPITO. Thank you.

Thank you. I think that will bring our meeting to conclusion. I would like, for the record, to ask for unanimous consent, I have letters of support for various nominees. Ordered.

[The referenced information follows:]

SMART COMMUNITY.
POWERFUL FUTURE.

July 31, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Chair
Committee on Environment & Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse, Ranking Member
Committee on Environment & Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cynthia Lummis, Chair
Clean Air, Climate, & Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark Kelly, Ranking Member
Clean Air, Climate & Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nominations to the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors

Dear Sens, Capito, Whitehouse, Lummis, and Kelly:

President Trump has nominated five individuals to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors, and I ask that you move with utmost urgency to process these key nominees.

I write as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association (TVPPA), representing the needs and interests of the 153 local power company members across the seven-state region served by TVA. TVPPA members are municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives, large and small, that distribute TVA power to over 10 million residents and thousands of businesses in the Tennessee Valley. TVPPA members are not just stakeholders: their wholesale power contractual relationship with TVA is the financial basis for the generation, transmission, and distribution systems in place today and funds the operation of the Tennessee Valley River System and management of over 293,000 acres of public land. All of this is accomplished while receiving no federal appropriations since 1992 and this contractual relationship has also allowed TVA to return to the U.S. Treasury, with interest, all federal appropriations received prior to 1992. In addition, this contractual relationship, which my members know as the Tennessee Valley Public Power Model, has consistently delivered highly reliable and affordable electric energy to the people and businesses of the Tennessee Valley for over 90 years. I trust these facts underscore our vested interest in the selection of those chosen to oversee TVA.

The Tennessee Valley Public Power Model is unique, governed by the TVA Act, and has allowed TVA to be a highly successful federally owned corporation. Today, oversight of TVA is found in its nine-member Board appointed by the President and that Board has the authority to set policy, approve new ventures, and appoint the utility's CEO. An important qualification of potential Board members, as enshrined in the Act, is to affirm support for the objectives and missions of the organization, including being a national leader in technological innovation, low-cost power, economic development, and environmental stewardship.

I am confident the committee will confirm the qualifications of the nominees according to the TVA Act. At this very pivotal time in TVA's history however, I encourage the committee to specifically assess the commitment of these nominees to the historical principles and mission that have well served the Tennessee Valley for these past 90 years. Therefore, I urge the committee to quickly schedule a hearing to consider these nominees and as stated above, with particular attention to their support for the TVA model, and the overall direction of the agency.

1206 Broad Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402 // 423.756.6511 // tvppa.com

TVA is not perfect—indeed, no utility is. But the TVA model has served the residents of the Valley well for nearly a century, and that track record is best maintained by quickly confirming the pending nominees to allow the agency to function best. There is much to do: TVA faces the same challenge as many utilities across the country of ramping up energy production to meet growing demands, and it certainly cannot execute on its goals without a Board quorum. We look forward to working with all the nominees, the White House, the Valley delegation, and members of this Committee to ensure TVA continues to provide reliable, affordable power to its customers well into the future.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Peters
President and CEO
Tennessee Valley Public Power Association

Cc: Members of the Tennessee Valley federal delegation
National Energy Dominance Council

William E. Orgel (Billy)
Tower Ventures
495 Tennessee Street
Suite 152
Memphis, Tennessee 38103
(901) 870-7555

August 26, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Capito:

First, I wanted to thank you for your service to our country and to the citizens of West Virginia as a United States Senator. I know that you have made many important decisions in the past that have done so much to make our country function better and to make it possible to compete and thrive as we move forward in the future.

President Trump has recently nominated a great friend of mine, John Mitchell Graves (Mitch) of Memphis, Tennessee to serve on the Board of the Tennessee Valley Authority. I have known Mitch and his wonderful wife, Kelly Jo, for many years and find him to be intelligent, diligent and with a strong commitment to the well-being of our Community, our State, and our Country. He serves as President of the West Cancer Center in Memphis and overseas the daily operations of cancer center with thousands of employees and serves many of our citizens dealing with cancer and treatments. He is well-regarded within our community for his

healthcare work and his commitment to numerous local non-profits and organizations. Eight years ago, our then Mayor tapped Mitch to serve on the Board of Memphis Light Gas and Water (MLGW), a large City owned utility with service provided to it by TVA. He has served as Chairman of the Board for many years and has been a tireless advocate for reliable utility service and extensive economic development. Hopefully, he will be able to apply his skills, leadership ability and knowledge of utility services to the Board of TVA. Please give him careful consideration and your support for his nomination.

Finally, when writing to you, I recalled the fondness with which my friends, Drew and Mary Jones Payne, spoke of you. We met years ago through Mary Jones' college roommate, who happens to be close friends with my wife Robin and me here in Memphis. They are fine people, and I look forward to seeing them soon either at the Greenbrier or when they are down in Florida.

Thank you again for all that you do and please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions about Mitch.

Sincerely,



Billy Orgel

PARKRIDGE
HEALTH SYSTEM

ParkridgeHealth.com
2333 McCallie Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37404
(423) 698-6061

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

September 5, 2025

Chairman Capito,

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic recommendation for Mitch Graves for appointment to the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors. I have had the pleasure of working with Mitch for the past 4 years, and I can attest to his exceptional qualifications, integrity, and leadership.

Mitch brings a unique combination of strategic thinking, financial acumen, deep industry expertise, and deep community involvement, which would be a valuable asset to any board. During our time working together in Memphis, I observed firsthand his ability to lead complex initiatives, navigate regulatory challenges, build consensus, and provide valuable mentorship.

Mitch's commitment to transparency, service, innovation, diversity, and caring for people is evident through the way he runs West Clinic. He is not only results-driven but also consistently prioritizes ethical decision-making and long-term impact.

Moreover, Mitch has a strong history of community involvement and civic leadership. He has served on many boards and appointed positions and always with a focus on making a positive difference. He is a true gem in Memphis!

I am confident that Mitch will bring valuable insight, dedication, and professionalism to the board. I give my highest recommendation without reservation and would be happy to speak further if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Chris Cosby | PRESIDENT & CEO
Parkridge Health System
2333 McCallie Ave.
Chattanooga, TN 37404
Office: *(423) 493-1772*
ParkridgeHealth.com

Charles A. Wagner III
4076 Alta Vista Way • Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

September 11, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Honorable Capito:

This letter is to recommend my great friend L. Jeffrey Hagood to the position on the TVA Board for which he has been nominated by President Trump.

First, I want to express to you my love for TVA and its mission on behalf of the people of the Tennessee River Valley region. I left private practice as a partner in a Chattanooga law firm to join TVA, first as a senior trial attorney, then as an Assistant General Counsel for litigation, and finally as Associate General Counsel for litigation, leaving TVA in 1979 to return to private practice. The mission of TVA was so important to me, and it was such a privilege to serve in a position that I truly believed helped make lives better. My love for TVA and the importance of its mission continues, but I have concerns about TVA leadership's understanding the needs of the common man and indeed the hourly people that work hard for TVA to make things run smoothly.

That brings me to my recommendation of Jeff for the TVA Board. I have known Jeff for well over thirty years, and have watched him and have in some instances partnered with him, as an attorney, a businessman and a community leader. He was reared in rural Hawkins County, Tennessee, the son of a US Postal carrier. He has worked hard and achieved to the highest levels in all his endeavors. For instance, he has written three books, the first about UT football's national championship in 1998, the next about his friend Inky Johnson who was a symbol of courage to so many UT football fans, and his last book on the life of his father and the lessons learned from his life and integrity. Recently, he headed up the Knox Sports Authority participation in the development and construction of the inner-city baseball park for the Knoxville Smokies and for the community.

Jeff's very best asset that makes him such an excellent selection for the TVA Board is that he is a man of the people. I have never been to a meal with him at a restaurant when he didn't call the server by name and learn a little something about him or her. He is always ministering to and helping the underserved and the needy. He has a genuine interest in people and has a common-sense, can-do approach in his leadership skills. He is also a humble man of God and with the character we should all expect from our government officials.

In describing my friend Jeff, I am reminded of the well-known Rupert Kipling poem "If" and particularly the line about walking with kings and still keeping the common touch. And TVA needs some of the common touch and common-sense leadership Jeff would bring.

Sincerely,

Charlie Wagner

Charlie Wagner

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY

967 Irwin Street
Knoxville, TN 37917
Tel. (865) 232-1200
Fax. (865) 232-1201
Web. bgctnv.org

August 21, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Capito,

It is my privilege to write in strong support of Jeffrey Hagood and his nomination to serve as a member of the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors. As President & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand the depth of Mr. Hagood's leadership, his commitment to service, and his impact across East Tennessee.

Jeffrey has been an invaluable member of our Board of Directors, guiding our organization through a period of growth and transformation. He brings to the table not only financial and business acumen, but also a clear sense of responsibility to the communities TVA serves. His ability to balance strategic decision-making with a deep concern for people is rare and deeply needed in a role of this magnitude.

What stands out most about Jeffrey is his grounding in this region. As someone born and raised here, he has an authentic understanding of the needs, opportunities, and challenges faced by Tennessee Valley communities. He is equally comfortable in the boardroom and in the community, and his leadership has always reflected a balance of pragmatism and compassion.

In particular, his time with our organization has shown me how committed he is to creating pathways of opportunity. His insights have helped us strengthen programs that prepare young people for the workforce, expand access for families in need, and improve long-term sustainability. These qualities—vision, integrity, and a relentless focus on service—will serve TVA and the people of this region exceptionally well.

I can say with confidence that Mr. Hagood possesses the experience, judgment, and character necessary to be an outstanding member of the TVA Board of Directors. I respectfully urge the Senate to move his nomination forward swiftly so he can continue serving the people of this region in such a meaningful capacity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bart McFadden
President & CEO
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley

We change lives and can prove it.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY

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August 21, 2025

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Whitehouse,

It is my privilege to write in strong support of Jeffrey Hagood and his nomination to serve as a member of the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors. As President & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand the depth of Mr. Hagood's leadership, his commitment to service, and his impact across East Tennessee.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bart McFadden
President & CEO
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley

We change lives and can prove it.

HMH
Hagood Moody Hodge PLC
Attorneys at Law

L. Jeffrey Hagood
Todd J. Moody
Bradley H. Hodge
C. John Chavis
Garry Chin

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September 17, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors – L. Jeffrey Hagood Nomination

Dear Chairman Capito:

It is my honor to highly recommend Jeff Hagood for the Board Member position on the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors. I have had the privilege of being friends with Mr. Hagood for over forty (40) years, and we have worked closely together for approximately thirty (30) years.

Throughout his life and career, Mr. Hagood has demonstrated exemplary leadership abilities. Approximately, twenty-nine (29) years ago, he organized and started the law firm of Hagood Tarpy and Cox, PLLC. He also is the originating founder and partner of the existing law firm of Hagood Moody Hodge PLC. As a result of his strong leadership abilities and his skill as a litigator and legal problem-solver, Mr. Hagood has built an incredible professional practice. He holds himself to rigorous standards, and he demands the same of his colleagues and coworkers. His abilities and achievements are well-recognized by other members of the legal profession. In his practice, Mr. Hagood has represented a variety of prominent clients, including distinguished public figures, coaches, and athletes. However, he also possesses a strong sense of humility, compassion and emotional intelligence, as well as the ability to relate to clients and people from every walk of life and from a variety of circumstances. Mr. Hagood is both dedicated and genuine. These valuable attributes have led to his success both as an attorney and a respected community leader.

In addition to his accomplishments in the legal profession, Mr. Hagood has attained great things in business. He owns or co-owns multiple properties and businesses in Tennessee, and, because of his extraordinary business acumen and sound leadership, these endeavors are almost universally successful.

Mr. Hagood's strong leadership skills can further be exemplified in his founding of the Knoxville Quarterback Club. Decades ago, Mr. Hagood started the Knoxville Quarterback Club to support the University of Tennessee football program with the cooperation and aid of the University's then-Athletic Director. Mr. Hagood has served as the acting President of the Club

from the time of its inception to the present. As a direct result of Mr. Hagood's guidance and leadership, the Club has become a community institution in the East Tennessee area and brings notable sports commentators, coaches and other high-profile speakers to Knoxville. Mr. Hagood is also presently a Board Member of the Knox County Sports Authority; he was among the few community leaders selected to oversee and manage the development of the acclaimed Tennessee Smokies baseball stadium, Covenant Health Park.

Perhaps most importantly, Mr. Hagood is deeply committed to serving and strengthening his community. Throughout his life and career, he has been a member of multiple boards and service organizations; these include the Boys and Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley and, formerly, the National Board of Trustees of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, where he served as a "Big Brother" and mentor. Not only has Mr. Hagood been dedicated to his role as a member of these organizations, but he is dedicated to tangibly helping those served by these organizations. He is actively helping people in various other ways, as well. He regularly delivers food to "shut-ins" on behalf of his church. He also has an amazing way of encouraging and counseling others, especially those who are disadvantaged, discouraged, or in need.

Mr. Hagood brings a sense of exuberance, enthusiasm, and a high level of energy to everything that he does. There is no doubt that he will bring these same qualities to his service on the Tennessee Valley Authority Board.

It is, again, my honor and privilege to strongly recommend Mr. Hagood for this position. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to do so.

Thank you,



Todd J. Moody

TJM/kem

HMH
Hagood Moody Hodge PLC
Attorneys at Law

L. Jeffrey Hagood
Todd J. Moody
Bradley H. Hodge
C. John Chavis
Garry Chin

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September 17, 2025

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors – L. Jeffrey Hagood Nomination

Dear Ranking Member Whitehouse:

It is my honor to highly recommend Jeff Hagood for the Board Member position on the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors. I have had the privilege of being friends with Mr. Hagood for over forty (40) years, and we have worked closely together for approximately thirty (30) years.

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It is, again, my honor and privilege to strongly recommend Mr. Hagood for this position. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to do so.

Thank you,



Todd J. Moody

TJM/kem

WILL AINSWORTH
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ALABAMA STATE HOUSE
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

STATE OF ALABAMA

August 29, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse:

I am honored to recommend Randall "Randy" Earlie Jones for service on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors. Randy brings not only business acumen and civic leadership, but also deep, practical experience in utility oversight and customer service—perspectives that are vital to TVA's mission.

For more than 17 years, Randy has served on the Electric Board of Guntersville, including the past six years as Chairman. In that role, he has overseen utility operations and policy decisions that directly impact households, businesses, and industries connected to TVA's grid. This experience gives him an intimate understanding of the challenges utilities face in balancing affordability, reliability, and infrastructure demands, as well as the expectations of customers who depend daily on these services.

His leadership has consistently reflected a customer-first perspective, ensuring that decisions consider not only financial and operational realities, but also the practical effects on families, small businesses, and local economic growth. His ability to bridge utility operations with the needs of end users mirrors TVA's own responsibility to serve more than 10 million people across the Valley.

Mr. Jones has led a remarkable career spanning nearly five decades as the Owner of Randy Jones & Associates, Inc., a multi-location, full-service insurance agency that has grown under his direction to employ 92 professionals across 14 offices in the Southeast. Randy's long record of service on additional boards—including Jacksonville State University, Alabama's Certificate of

Need Board, and the Business Council of Alabama—further demonstrates his ability to handle complex governance with integrity and vision.

His experience overseeing complex utility infrastructure, deep ties to regional economic development, and a lifelong understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing TVA-served communities make Mr. Jones uniquely suited for this role. At a time when TVA must balance modernization with fiscal stewardship and customer confidence, Randy Jones's unique background in utility governance makes him an invaluable nominee. I urge the Committee to give his nomination the strongest possible consideration.

Sincerely,



Will Ainsworth
Lieutenant Governor

Malcolm Baldrige
National Quality Award
2019 Award Recipient

1930 S. Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138-2815
901.757.7200
Germantown-TN.gov

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

August 27, 2025

Dear Ranking Member Whitehouse,

It has been my privilege to work alongside and grow acquainted with Mitch Graves over the course of my 21 years in public service to the City of Germantown. When I became Mayor, one of my first actions was to establish an advisory group of regional leaders in commerce, healthcare, business ownership, and corporate leadership known as the CEO Roundtable. Mitch Graves was one of the very first appointments to this body. He was selected because of the high regard in which he is held by his peers across the region and state, his proven record of success in the healthcare sector, and his ability to present solutions that strengthen relationships rather than compromise them.

Through this work, I came to better appreciate Mr. Graves' unique ability to build consensus and drive continuous improvement. His leadership on the Memphis Light, Gas and Water Board of Commissioners, first as a member and later as board chair, demonstrated these qualities time and again.

As Chair of the Shelby County Council of Suburban Mayors, I frequently convened meetings with MLGW leadership and board members. Commissioner Graves consistently ensured that these sessions were purposeful, timely, and results-oriented.

Over the decades, I have witnessed Mr. Graves serve in many leadership roles—as a corporate executive, nonprofit organizer and benefactor, civic board member, and respected voice among peers at the local, state, and regional levels. In every instance, he has shown a steady commitment to service and effective leadership.

It is without hesitation that I recommend Mitch Graves for any leadership capacity, and particularly as a Commissioner serving the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Respectfully,

Mike Palazzolo
Mayor, City of Germantown

Malcolm Baldrige
National Quality Award
2019 Award Recipient

1930 S. Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138-2815
901.757.7200
Germantown-TN.gov

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

August 27, 2025

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Respectfully,

Mike Palazzolo
Mayor, City of Germantown

Rodney Cleek
Vice President,
Chief Financial Officer
& Secretary Treasurer

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

August 26, 2025

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Mitch Graves for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Mitch for several years, and I can confidently attest to his exceptional qualifications and dedication to public service.

Mitch has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership and a deep commitment to Memphis and the Tennessee Valley. Mitch's extensive experience in leading corporations has equipped him with the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute effectively to the TVA Board of Directors. Mitch's ability to navigate complex challenges and make informed decisions has been instrumental in driving positive outcomes for many organizations like Memphis Light, Gas and Water where he has served on our Board since 2016.

In addition to his professional expertise, Mitch is known for his integrity, financial acumen and collaborative spirit in working with others. Mitch has remarkable ability to bring people together, fostering a culture of teamwork and mutual respect. Mitch's qualities align perfectly with the needs and challenges that TVA is facing in the future.

I am confident that Mitch will be an invaluable asset to the TVA Board of Directors. His vision, strategic thinking, and unwavering commitment to excellence make him an ideal candidate for this important role. I wholeheartedly endorse Mitch as the person who can lead TVA into the future.

Thank you for considering Mitch Graves for this important role. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rodney Cleek
Vice President, Chief Financial Officer & Secretary Treasurer

MLGW

Doug McGowen
President and CEO

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

August 27, 2025

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

I encourage you to approve Mitch Graves for service on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors. As a long-serving member of Memphis Light. Gas and Water Board of Commissioners, Mitch has distinguished himself as a leader in the utility industry. MLGW is the nation's largest three-service municipal utility, serving more than 440,000 customers, and is TVA's largest customer. Mitch is well versed in the need for transformation in the Tennessee Valley to meet the growing demands of our region. He has earned my complete confidence and will serve the Valley and our Nation well.

Mitch has been tested by the crucible of local utility service where there is no margin for error and where the stakes are high for serving economically disadvantaged customers. His ability to navigate complex challenges and make informed decisions has been instrumental in bringing positive outcomes in improved reliability for our customers, while keeping our combined utility rates among the lowest in the nation.

As a leader in the Memphis business community, Mitch has a well-respected voice and has been influential in providing better outcomes for our City and our region. His business acumen, financial stewardship, and strategic thinking serve him well in both his private and public sector roles and make him the ideal candidate for service on the TVA board.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Doug McGowen
President and Chief Executive Officer

HUNTSVILLE

Tommy Battle
Mayor

August 29, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for Randall Earlie Jones – TVA Board of Directors Nominee

Dear Chairman Capito,

I am pleased to strongly endorse Randall "Randy" Earlie Jones for service on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors. His nearly five decades of professional and civic leadership demonstrate a consistent ability to address complex challenges with creativity, balance, and lasting results.

As owner of Randy Jones & Associates, Inc., he grew a single insurance office into a multi-state enterprise with more than 90 employees. This success reflects his skill in problem-solving, developing consensus, managing risk, and identifying practical solutions under pressure. Randy has also applied these abilities in public service, serving as Chairman of both Jacksonville State University's Board, the Guntersville Electric Board, and on Alabama's Centennial Board of Education. In each role, he has guided organizations through difficult decisions while ensuring fiscal responsibility and long-term stability.

TVA today faces pressing questions about affordability, modernization, and sustainable growth. Randy's proven record of navigating complex issues makes him exceptionally well suited to help TVA provide affordable energy to the 10 million people across its seven-state region.

I respectfully urge the Committee to act favorably and promptly on his nomination. Randy Jones is a leader of integrity, vision, and practical skill, and TVA will be stronger with him on its Board.

With respect,

Tommy Battle
Mayor

The Star of Alabama

P. O. Box 308 · Huntsville, AL 35804-0308 · Phone 256-427-5000 · FAX 256-427-5257
huntsvilleal.gov

HUNTSVILLE
Tommy Battle
Mayor

August 29, 2025

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for Randall Earlie Jones – TVA Board of Directors Nominee

Dear Ranking Member Whitehouse,

I am pleased to strongly endorse Randall "Randy" Earlie Jones for service on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors. His nearly five decades of professional and civic leadership demonstrate a consistent ability to address complex challenges with creativity, balance, and lasting results.

As owner of Randy Jones & Associates, Inc., he grew a single insurance office into a multi-state enterprise with more than 90 employees. This success reflects his skill in problem-solving, developing consensus, managing risk, and identifying practical solutions under pressure. Randy has also applied these abilities in public service, serving as Chairman of both Jacksonville State University's Board, the Guntersville Electric Board, and on Alabama's Centennial Board of Education. In each role, he has guided organizations through difficult decisions while ensuring fiscal responsibility and long-term stability.

TVA today faces pressing questions about affordability, modernization, and sustainable growth. Randy's proven record of navigating complex issues makes him exceptionally well suited to help TVA provide affordable energy to the 10 million people across its seven-state region.

I respectfully urge the Committee to act favorably and promptly on his nomination. Randy Jones is a leader of integrity, vision, and practical skill, and TVA will be stronger with him on its Board.

With respect,

Tommy Battle
Mayor

beasley allen
LAW FIRM

218 Commerce Street
P.O. Box 4160
Montgomery, AL 36103-4160

(800) 898-2034

BeasleyAllen.com

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Principal
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Principal / Beasley Allen Law Firm
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Montgomery, AL 36117
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334-451-0805

August 29, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Randall Earlie Jones – Nominee, Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

It is with the utmost conviction and unwavering confidence that I write to strongly support the nomination of Randall "Randy" Earlie Jones to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors, as submitted by President Donald J. Trump. Mr. Jones is not only a distinguished business leader and public servant, but a proven steward of ethical governance, fiscal responsibility, and regional advancement—exactly the caliber of leadership the TVA requires during this pivotal time in its history.

Mr. Jones has led a remarkable career spanning nearly five decades as the Owner of Randy Jones & Associates, Inc., a multi-location, full-service insurance agency that has grown under his direction to employ 92 professionals across 14 offices in the Southeast. His success in the private

sector is matched only by his enduring commitment to public service. His tenure on numerous boards—including the Certificate of Need Board for the State of Alabama, the Guntersville Electric Board (where he currently serves as Chairman), and the Jacksonville State University Board of Directors (also serving as Chairman)—demonstrates a rare combination of visionary leadership and operational competence.

Mr. Jones also holds the distinction of being a Director Emeritus of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, following 20 years of dedicated service. His longstanding involvement with the Albertville Rotary Club, where he has served as a two-term President and 48-year member, underscores his deep-rooted commitment to civic life and community engagement.

His experience overseeing complex utility infrastructure, deep ties to regional economic development, and a lifelong understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing TVA-served communities make Mr. Jones uniquely suited for this role. His grounding in ethical decision-making, coupled with a well-documented history of bipartisan collaboration and results-oriented leadership, will serve the TVA—and the millions it supports—exceptionally well.

A proud graduate of Jacksonville State University, Mr. Jones and his wife, Debra, reside in Guntersville, Alabama, where they remain active members of First Baptist Church. Their family includes one daughter, Amanda Mason (Richard), and three grandchildren. His values—rooted in faith, service, and personal integrity—are evident in every facet of his life and work.

In a time when capable, principled leadership is urgently needed, Randall Earlie Jones stands out as a nominee of unquestionable merit. I urge the Committee to swiftly and favorably consider his confirmation to the TVA Board of Directors.

Should you require any additional information or personal testimony, I am at your full disposal.

With great respect,

Carl Gibson Vance



Principal / Beasley Allen Law Firm

AREA

ALABAMA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION OF COOPERATIVES

Telephone (334) 215-2732 340 TechnaCenter Drive Montgomery, Alabama 36117 Facsimile (334) 215-2733

Post Office Box 244014
Montgomery, Alabama 36124

Karl Rayborn
President/CEO Alabama Rural Electric Association
340 TechnaCenter Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117

Date: September 2, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Recommendation of Randall Earlie Jones for the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

On behalf of the eight Electric Cooperatives in north Alabama we send this in support of Mr. Randall "Randy" Earlie Jones, recently nominated by President Donald J. Trump to serve on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Mr. Jones embodies the values, experience, and integrity required to lead responsibly and effectively on behalf of over 10 million Americans and 500,000 Alabamians served by the TVA across seven Southern states.

As the owner of Randy Jones & Associates, Inc., headquartered in Albertville, Alabama, Mr. Jones has led a thriving business since 1978. Under his visionary leadership, what began as a single-location insurance agency has grown into a multi-state enterprise

with 92 employees across 14 locations, representing all major insurance carriers. His entrepreneurial spirit, combined with a practical understanding of economic development and infrastructure management, uniquely qualifies him to support the TVA's mission of reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy.

Yet Mr. Jones's contributions extend far beyond the private sector. His deep and longstanding civic service is extraordinary in both scope and impact:

- He has dedicated 17 years to the Electric Board of Guntersville, where he has spent the last six years as Chairman, overseeing key operational and strategic decisions in a region directly affected by TVA services.
- He is currently serving his 10th year on the Certificate of Need Board for the State of Alabama, providing oversight on essential health care infrastructure across the state.
- He is in his 15th year as a Board Member of Jacksonville State University, his alma mater, and has served the past six years as Board Chairman, shaping the institution's long-term trajectory.
- He was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Business Council of Alabama, further affirming the esteem in which he is held by both business and civic leaders across the state.
- He served for 20 years on the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Board, and now holds the distinguished title of Director Emeritus.
- A 48-year member of the Albertville Rotary Club, he has served two terms as President and continues to model servant leadership.

These qualifications reflect not only professional success, but also an enduring commitment to service, stewardship, and the betterment of his community and state. He is an individual who understands regional needs—especially in the Tennessee Valley service area—because he has spent his entire life actively working to improve it. He is also a man of faith and family, devoted to his wife Debra, their daughter Amanda (Richard) Mason, and three grandchildren. Together, they are proud members of First Baptist Church in Guntersville, Alabama.

Given the critical moment the TVA now faces—operating with only three of nine board members and unable to initiate new projects or direction—Randy Jones offers a steady, experienced, and values-driven presence to help restore governance capacity and move the organization forward.

We respectfully urge the Committee to act promptly and favorably on this nomination. Mr. Jones's record speaks for itself, and his presence on the TVA Board would be a clear asset not only to the Authority, but to the millions of Americans who depend on it.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further detail or endorsement.

With sincere respect and full confidence,

Karl Rayborn
President/CEO
Alabama Rural Electric Association

Stacy White
General Manager
Arab Electric Cooperative

Gena S. Hall
General Manager
North Alabama Electric Cooperative

Tim Cullpepper
General Manager
Cullman Electric Cooperative

Randal Wilkie
General Manager
Cherokee Electric Cooperative

Gene Kanikovsky
General Manager
Joe Wheeler Electric Cooperative

Scott Bobo
General Manager
Marshall DeKalb Electric Cooperative

Joseph Bates
General Manager
Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative

Mark Stockton
General Manager
Franklin Electric Cooperative

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

(334) 242-7100
FAX: (334) 242-3282

STATE OF ALABAMA

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse:

Please accept this letter as a statement of my support for the confirmation of Randall "Randy" Earlie Jones to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors. Mr. Jones' background and experiences in utility governance, civic organizations, and private business make him an outstanding and uniquely-qualified candidate.

Mr. Jones has served on the Electric Board of Guntersville for more than 17 years, including six as Chairman. This role has given him direct experience with TVA-connected utilities and a clear understanding of the critical balance between reliability, affordability, and customer expectations. His leadership reflects a customer-focused perspective, ensuring that utility decisions serve families, businesses, and local economies.

Beyond his utility service, Mr. Jones has provided trusted leadership as a member of the Alabama Certificate of Need Board, Chairman of the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees, and numerous civic and business organizations. In each, he has demonstrated integrity, steady judgment, and the ability to make decisions that benefit both institutions and the people they serve.

It is my belief that Mr. Jones would provide sound governance, fair oversight, and economic-focused approach that would benefit the TVA and TVA-served communities. To this end, it is my hope that you will prioritize Mr. Jones' committee confirmation hearing.

Sincerely,

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey
Governor

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Randall Earlie Jones – Nominee, Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

I am writing to express my full and enthusiastic support for the nomination of Randall "Randy" Earlie Jones to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors, as submitted by President Donald J. Trump. Mr. Jones is a distinguished leader whose decades of service in both the private and public sectors reflect his deep commitment to the people and communities of the TVA region.

Mr. Jones has demonstrated exceptional leadership throughout his career. As the Owner of Randy Jones & Associates for nearly fifty years, he has built a highly successful, multi-location insurance agency with 14 offices across the Southeastern United States. His business success is rooted in strategic foresight, operational excellence, and a deep understanding of the needs of the communities he serves. He is widely respected for his ability to build strong teams, foster innovation, and maintain a customer-first approach that has earned him the trust of thousands of clients.

Equally impressive is Mr. Jones' record of public service. He has held leadership roles on numerous boards, including the Certificate of Need Board for the State of Alabama, the Guntersville Electric Board, and a variety of civic and community organizations.

700 Pelham Road North
Jacksonville, AL 36265-1602
P. 256.782.5881
F. 256.782.5888
jsu.edu

His commitment to public service is not only longstanding but also deeply impactful. He brings a thoughtful, collaborative approach to governance and is known for his ability to build consensus and drive meaningful progress.

As Chairman of the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees, Mr. Jones has played a pivotal role in the university's transformation. Under his leadership, JSU has experienced record growth in enrollment, expanded academic offerings, and elevated its athletic programs. His commitment to his alma mater is deeply personal and profoundly impactful. He leads with vision, compassion, and a relentless drive for excellence. His ability to unify stakeholders, set ambitious goals, and execute with precision has elevated JSU to new heights, positioning the university as a leader in higher education across the region.

Mr. Jones is exceptionally qualified for service on the TVA Board. His extensive experience in business, leadership on utility boards, and lifelong connection to the TVA service territory uniquely position him to represent and advocate for the communities served by the TVA. He understands the challenges and opportunities facing the region and will bring a pragmatic, solutions-oriented mindset to the Board. His integrity, pride, and understanding of the region will be invaluable assets to the TVA's mission.

Born and raised in the TVA service territory, Mr. Jones has lived and worked in the region his entire life. He identifies with the people TVA serves and has a personal stake in the success of its programs and initiatives. His deep roots in the community, combined with his professional expertise and public service record, make him an ideal candidate to help guide the TVA's future.

It is with great respect and confidence that I recommend Mr. Jones for this appointment. I am confident that his contributions will enhance the TVA's mission and have a positive impact on the lives of those in the Tennessee Valley region.

With great respect,



Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., Ed.D.
President



123 South Front Street, Memphis, TN 38103 Phone (901) 495-6500

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

September 2, 2025

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

I was extremely excited when I learned that Mitch Graves had been nominated to serve on the board of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). I know of no one more capable and qualified to serve on this vitally important board than Mitch.

I have lived in Memphis, TN for 56 years, where TVA is our power source. I also owned a lake house on Kentucky Lake and understand the recreational and navigational importance of the TVA system. As the country's largest public power company, it is imperative that it is governed well.

Mitch Graves is someone uniquely qualified to serve in this capacity. He is a phenomenally successful business leader operating in the extraordinarily complex healthcare industry for more than 30 years. His leadership of the West Cancer Center for the past six years has been extraordinary, especially considering the changing landscape with West Cancer Center's previous primary partner. Mitch has had a steady hand in navigating that particularly challenging situation and has done so with poise, grace, and determination. Regardless of his position throughout his career, he has progressively assumed larger and more complicated roles, and he has continued to deliver stellar performance.

In addition to being an extraordinary leader and businessperson, Mitch and his wife Kelly Jo are very civically minded. Whenever there is a challenge in our community, Mitch is there. He has served on many local boards of considerable importance and in most cases, he has become the Chairman. That clearly indicates that he can build trust with his fellow board members and that they comfortably follow his lead. Throughout these numerous board roles, Mitch has developed a deep understanding of the importance of appropriate governance. He also can distinguish between his role as fiduciary and overseer versus management – a critical distinction and one that is hard for many to navigate.

Additionally, for a health care executive, Mitch has truly relevant experience for TVA. Mitch serves on the board of Memphis Light Gas and Water where he previously served as Chairman.

While Chairman, he again found himself in an incredibly challenging situation. Memphians were divided on whether to continue their long-standing relationship with TVA or move to another provider. This was a very emotionally charged situation with strong feelings on both sides of the debate. We all had the opportunity to watch Mitch navigate and lead through this challenging situation and ultimately, due to his steady hand, we made the decision to remain with TVA and the community trusted that decision because Mitch was at the helm.

As our society develops increasingly more uses for electricity, it is imperative that we and, in particular, TVA, explore every option for meeting those demands. TVA has been a reliable source of electricity since the 1940's but much of its infrastructure is aging and some of the sources that were most effective then are not going to be the best sources for tomorrow. As we grapple with innovative technologies, like small modular nuclear reactors, we need board members who have sufficient experience, wisdom, intellectual curiosity and more to help the management team navigate these uncharted waters. Mitch is just the person to do so.

Finally, TVA has not been without controversy. We need highly capable leaders guiding this ship, but most importantly, we need people guiding it who have impeccable integrity and always put the needs of the community broadly at the forefront of their decision making. That is exactly how Mitch operates.

It is a distinct honor for me to give my highest recommendation of Mitch Graves to be confirmed by the United States Senate to serve on the board of directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority. If you would like any additional information or insights, I would be happy to provide them. I hope for a seamless and speedy confirmation process.

Thank you both for your service to our country.

Sincerely,



William C. Rhodes III
Executive Chairman
Customer Satisfaction

MANUFACTURE ALABAMA
ALABAMA'S TRADE ASSOCIATION FOR ALABAMA'S MANUFACTURERS

September 3, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for Randall Earlie Jones – TVA Board of Directors Nominee

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

I am pleased to strongly endorse Randall "Randy" Earlie Jones for service on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors. His nearly five decades of professional and civic leadership demonstrate a consistent ability to address complex challenges with creativity, balance, and lasting results.

As owner of Randy Jones & Associates, Inc., he grew a single insurance office into a multi-state enterprise with more than 90 employees. This success reflects his skill in problem-solving—building consensus, managing risk, and identifying practical solutions under pressure.

Randy has also applied these abilities in public service, serving as Chairman of both Jacksonville State University's Board and the Guntersville Electric Board, and on Alabama's Certificate of Need Board. In each role, he has guided organizations through difficult decisions while ensuring fiscal responsibility and long-term stability.

TVA today faces pressing questions about affordability, modernization, and sustainable growth. Randy's proven record of navigating complexity makes him exceptionally well suited to help TVA deliver on its mission for more than 10 million people across the Valley.

I respectfully urge the Committee to act favorably and promptly on his nomination. Randy Jones is a leader of integrity, vision, and practical skill, and TVA will be stronger with him on its Board.

Respectfully,

Jon Barganier
President & CEO
Manufacture Alabama

DAVID KUSTOFF
8TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

560 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-4714

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

WWW.KUSTOFF.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4208

September 3, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
170 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

I am pleased to recommend John Mitchell "Mitch" Graves of Memphis, Tennessee, for appointment to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors. Mitch's 37-year career in executive leadership, coupled with his extensive governance experience and dedication to public service, makes him an outstanding candidate to advance TVA's mission of providing reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy, water, and economic development.

Mitch served with distinction on the Board of Commissioners for Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW), the nation's largest three-service municipal utility, including as Chairman, President, and CEO. He guided the development of MLGW's Integrated Resource Plan and oversaw critical initiatives in purchased power, transmission, and alternative energy, demonstrating his ability to balance strategic planning and stakeholder collaboration.

As CEO of West Cancer Center and Research Institute in Germantown, Tennessee, Mitch has driven financial stability and record patient growth while fostering innovation and transparency. His leadership extends to numerous boards, including Christian Brothers University, Qsource healthcare consultancy, and the Church Health Center's Finance Committee. Appointed by Governor Bill Lee to the Governor's Council for Judicial Appointments, Mitch is recognized for his integrity and sound judgment.

A fourth-generation Memphian, Mitch is deeply committed to his community, having raised over $1.2 million for Methodist Residential Hospice with his wife. His strategic vision and proven leadership make him exceptionally qualified to serve on the TVA Board. I offer my support for his nomination to the TVA Board of Directors without reservation. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of my staff with any further questions at (202) 225-4714.

Sincerely,

David Kustoff
Member of Congress

MARTIN
242 SOUTH LINDELL STREET
MARTIN, TN 38237
(731) 412-103

MEMPHIS
5900 POPLAR AVENUE
SUITE 202
MEMPHIS, TN 38119
(901) 682-4422

JACKSON
ED JONES FEDERAL BUILDING
109 S. HIGHLAND AVE., SUITE B-7
JACKSON, TN 38301
(731) 423-4848

ELECTRIC CITIES OF ALABAMA
UNITING ALABAMA'S ELECTRIC CITIES

Chairman
Elden Chumley
Vice Chairman
Sherry Sullivan
Secretary
Brian Chandler
Executive Director
Jonathan A. Hand

September 8, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Recommendation of Randall Earlie Jones for the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse:

We contact you today in support of Mr. Randall Earlie Jones, recently nominated by President Donald J. Trump to serve on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Mr. Jones embodies the values, experience, and integrity required to lead responsibly and effectively on behalf of over 10 million Americans and 500,000 Alabamians served by the TVA across seven Southern states.

As the owner of Randy Jones & Associates, Inc., headquartered in Albertville, Alabama, Mr. Jones has led a thriving business since 1978. Under his visionary leadership, what began as a single-location insurance agency has grown into a multi-state enterprise with 92 employees across 14 locations, representing all major insurance carriers. His entrepreneurial spirit, combined with a practical understanding of economic development and infrastructure management, uniquely qualifies him to support the TVA's mission of reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy.

Yet Mr. Jones's contributions extend far beyond the private sector. His understanding of the electric industry and the many challenges facing this industry is proven by his longstanding 17 years of service to the Electric Board of Guntersville. The last six years of his service to the electric board, Mr. Jones has served as the Chairman of the utility, overseeing key operational and strategic decisions in a region directly affected by TVA services. The Electric Board of

P.O. Box 1550, Montgomery, AL 36102-1550 · 770 Washington Avenue, Suite 164, Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: (334) 954-3221 · Fax: (334) 954-3223 · www.electriccities.org

Guntersville is an Electric Cities of Alabama's member utility that owns and operates a municipal utility system offering reliable and affordable electricity.

Mr. Jones other civil service contributions include:

· He is currently serving his 10th year on the Certificate of Need Board for the State of Alabama, providing oversight on essential health care infrastructure across the state.

· He is in his 15th year as a Board Member of Jacksonville State University, his alma mater, and has served the past six years as Board Chairman, shaping the institution's long-term trajectory.

· He was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Business Council of Alabama, further affirming the esteem in which he is held by both business and civic leaders across the state.

· He served for 20 years on the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Board and now holds the distinguished title of Director Emeritus.

· A 48-year member of the Albertville Rotary Club, he has served two terms as President and continues to model servant leadership.

These qualifications reflect not only professional success, but also an enduring commitment to service, stewardship, and the betterment of his community and state. He is an individual who understands regional needs—especially in the Tennessee Valley service area—because he has spent his entire life actively working to improve it. He is also a man of faith and family, devoted to his wife Debra, their daughter Amanda (Richard) Mason, and three grandchildren. Together, they are proud members of First Baptist Church in Guntersville, Alabama.

Given the critical moment the TVA now faces—operating with only three of nine board members and unable to initiate new projects or direction—Randy Jones offers a steady, experienced, and values-driven presence to help restore governance capacity and move the organization forward.

We respectfully urge the Committee to act promptly and favorably on this nomination. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require further detail or endorsement.

Uniting Alabama's electric cities, we remain

Sincerely,

Elden L Chumley

Elden Chumley
Chairman
Municipal Utilities Board of Albertville

Jonathan Hand
Executive Director
Electric Cities of Alabama

P.O. Box 1550, Montgomery, AL 36102-1550 · 770 Washington Avenue, Suite 164, Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: (334) 954-3221 · Fax: (334) 954-3223 · www.electriccities.org

BUSINESS COUNCIL
OF ALABAMA

September 8, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse:

I am honored to recommend Randall "Randy" Earlie Jones for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors. His unique experience in utility governance, combined with decades of business and civic leadership, makes him an outstanding candidate.

For over 17 years, Randy has served on the Electric Board of Guntersville, including six as Chairman. This role has given him direct experience with TVA-connected utilities and a clear understanding of the balance between reliability, affordability, and customer expectations. His leadership reflects a customer-focused perspective, ensuring that utility decisions serve families, businesses, and local economies.

Beyond his utility service, Randy has provided trusted leadership on Alabama's Certificate of Need Board, Jacksonville State University's Board (serving as Chairman), and numerous civic and business organizations. In each, he has demonstrated integrity, steady judgment, and the ability to make decisions that benefit both institutions and the people they serve.

At this critical time, TVA needs leaders who understand not only governance but also the customer perspective at the heart of its mission. Randy Jones offers exactly that. I strongly urge the Committee to confirm his nomination without delay.

Sincerely,

Helena Duncan
President & CEO Business Council of Alabama

PHYSICAL ADDRESS
2 N. JACKSON ST. STE 501 MONTGOMERY, AL 36104 - 3821

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. BOX 76 MONTGOMERY, AL 36101-0076

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BILL LEE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF TENNESSEE

September 8, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

It is my pleasure to write to you in support of the nomination of Mr. Mitch Graves to the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors.

Mr. Graves is an accomplished healthcare executive with over 30 years of leadership, currently serving as Chief Executive Officer of West Cancer Center. He has dedicated his career to improving community health and the patient experience and has served on advisory councils for both Cigna and United Healthcare at the national level.

Additionally, Mr. Graves has a long history of service to his community and our State. I have appointed him to the Governor's Council for Judicial Appointments, and he currently serves on numerous boards, including the board of Memphis Light Gas and Water.

I have no doubt that Mr. Graves will be a diligent member of the TVA Board of Directors and will serve our Country well. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely,

Bill Lee
Governor

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION

JAMES A. "JIMMIE" STEPHENS - PRESIDENT
MICHAEL BOLIN
T. JOE KNIGHT
LASHUNDA SCALES
SHEILA TYSON

JAMES A. (JIMMIE) STEPHENS, PRESIDENT
CHAIR-ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

District 3
716 Richard Arrington, Jr. Blvd. N., Suite 210
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
Telephone (205) 325-5555
FAX (205) 325-4860

Date: September 8, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for Randall Earlie Jones – TVA Board of Directors Nominee

Dear Chairman, Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

I am pleased to strongly endorse Randall "Randy" Earlie Jones for service on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors. His nearly five decades of professional and civic leadership demonstrate a consistent ability to address complex challenges with creativity, balance, and lasting results.

As owner of Randy Jones & Associates, Inc., he grew a single insurance office into a multi-state enterprise with more than 90 employees. This success reflects his skill in problem-solving—building consensus, managing risk, and identifying practical solutions under pressure.

Randy has also applied these abilities in public service, serving as Chairman of both Jacksonville State University's Board and the Guntersville Electric Board, and on Alabama's Certificate of Need Board. In each role, he has guided organizations through difficult decisions while ensuring fiscal responsibility and long-term stability.

TVA today faces pressing questions about affordability, modernization, and sustainable growth. Randy's proven record of navigating complexity makes him exceptionally well suited to helping TVA deliver on its mission for more than 10 million people across the Valley.

I respectfully urge the Committee to act favorably and promptly on his nomination. Randy Jones is a leader of integrity, vision, and practical skills, and TVA will be stronger with him on its Board.

With respect,

James A. Stephens
President, Jefferson County Commission

STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 304260
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4260

CHRIS V. BEEKER III, COMMISSIONER, PLACE 2

September 9, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Endorsement of Randall Earlie Jones – TVA Board of Directors Nominee

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

I am pleased to recommend Randall "Randy" Earlie Jones for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors. His unique experience in utility governance, combined with decades of business and civic leadership, make him an outstanding candidate.

For over 17 years, Randy has served on the Electric Board of Guntersville, including six as Chairman. This role has given him direct experience with TVA-connected utilities and a clear understanding of the balance between reliability, affordability, and customer expectations. His leadership reflects a customer-focused perspective, ensuring that utility decisions serve families, businesses, and local economies.

Beyond his utility service, Randy has provided trusted leadership on Alabama's Certificate of Need Board, Jacksonville State University's Board (serving as Chairman), and numerous civic and business organizations. In each, he has demonstrated integrity, fair judgment, and the ability to make decisions that benefit both institutions and the people they serve.

At this critical time, TVA needs leaders who understand not only governance but also the customer perspective at the heart of its mission. Randy Jones offers that. I strongly urge the Committee to confirm his nomination without delay.

Best regards,

Chris V. Beeker III, Commissioner, Place 2
Alabama Public Service Commission

PHILLIP FULMER
802 Laurie Street
Maryville, Tennessee 37803

September 9, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

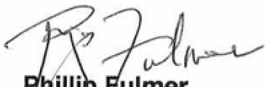
Dear Chairman Capito,

It is my honor to recommend Jeff Hagood for the TVA Board of Directors. I have known Jeff for more than 40 years, and throughout that time, I have always found him to be an honorable man, grounded in strong Christian and family values, and a natural leader.

Jeff is a tireless worker who has built his career through his skills as a communicator, problem solver, and man of action. He is deeply community-minded and consistently seeks to do what is right when challenges arise. Like all great leaders, Jeff has the ability to motivate others, bring people together, stand firmly by his principles, and – most importantly – do what is best for the team.

I am confident Jeff would bring integrity, vision, and steady leadership to the TVA Board. Please feel free to reach out to me if I can be of any assistance.

Yours truly,



Phillip Fulmer
Retired Hall of Fame Football Coach

PHILLIP FULMER
802 Laurie Street
Maryville, Tennessee 37803

September 9, 2025

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

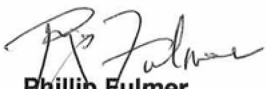
Dear Ranking Member Whitehouse,

It is my honor to recommend Jeff Hagood for the TVA Board of Directors. I have known Jeff for more than 40 years, and throughout that time, I have always found him to be an honorable man, grounded in strong Christian and family values, and a natural leader.

Jeff is a tireless worker who has built his career through his skills as a communicator, problem solver, and man of action. He is deeply community-minded and consistently seeks to do what is right when challenges arise. Like all great leaders, Jeff has the ability to motivate others, bring people together, stand firmly by his principles, and – most importantly – do what is best for the team.

I am confident Jeff would bring integrity, vision, and steady leadership to the TVA Board. Please feel free to reach out to me if I can be of any assistance.

Yours truly,



Phillip Fulmer
Retired Hall of Fame Football Coach

NATHANIEL LEDBETTER
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

ALABAMA STATE HOUSE
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

STATE OF ALABAMA

September 9, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Endorsement of Randall Earlie Jones for TVA Board of Directors

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

I am honored to recommend Randall "Randy" Earlie Jones for service on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors. Randy brings not only business acumen and civic leadership, but also deep, practical experience in utility oversight and customer service—perspectives that are vital to TVA's mission.

For more than 17 years, Randy has served on the Electric Board of Guntersville, including the past six years as Chairman. In that role, he has overseen utility operations and policy decisions that directly impact households, businesses, and industries connected to TVA's grid. This experience gives him an intimate understanding of the challenges utilities face in balancing affordability, reliability, and infrastructure demands, as well as the expectations of customers who depend daily on these services.

His leadership has consistently reflected a customer-first perspective, ensuring that decisions consider not only financial and operational realities, but also the practical effects on families, small businesses, and local economic growth. His ability to bridge utility operations with the needs of end users mirrors TVA's own responsibility to serve more than 10 million people across the Valley.

Randy's long record of service on additional boards—including Jacksonville State University, Alabama's Certificate of Need Board, and the Business Council of Alabama—further demonstrates his ability to handle complex governance with integrity and vision.

At a time when TVA must balance modernization with fiscal stewardship and customer confidence, Randy Jones's unique background in utility governance makes him an invaluable nominee. I urge the Committee to give his nomination the strongest possible consideration.

Respectfully,

Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter
Alabama House of Representatives
House District 24

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E-MAIL: NATHANIEL.LEDBETTER@ALHOUSE.GOV

ROBERT B. ADERHOLT
4TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

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U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
CHAIRMAN,
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION
AGRICULTURE
DEFENSE

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

Understanding that you receive scores of nominations for various Executive Branch positions under your jurisdiction, I write to recommend Randall "Randy" Earlie Jones for service on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors. Randy brings not only business acumen and civic leadership, but also deep, practical experience in utility oversight and customer service, perspectives that are vital to TVA's mission.

For more than 17 years, Randy has served on the Electric Board of Guntersville (including the past six years as Chairman)- a consumer of TVA's power generation on behalf of their members. In that role, he has overseen utility operations and policy decisions that directly impact households, businesses, and industries connected to TVA's grid. This experience gives him an intimate understanding of the challenges utilities face in balancing affordability, reliability, and infrastructure demands, as well as the expectations of customers who depend daily on these services.

His leadership has consistently reflected a customer-first perspective, ensuring that decisions consider not only financial and operational realities, but also the practical effects on families, small businesses, and local economic growth. His ability to bridge utility operations with the needs of end users mirrors TVA's own responsibility to serve more than 10 million people across the Valley.

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205 FOURTH AVENUE NE
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CULLMAN, AL 35055
TELEPHONE: (256) 734-6043

1011 GEORGE WALLACE BOULEVARD
SUITE 146
TUSCUMBIA, AL 35674
TELEPHONE: (256) 381-3450

Randy's long record of service on additional boards—including Jacksonville State University, Alabama's Certificate of Need Board, and the Business Council of Alabama—further demonstrates his ability to handle complex governance with integrity and vision.

At a time when TVA must balance modernization with fiscal stewardship and customer confidence, Randy Jones's unique background in utility governance makes him an invaluable nominee. I ask that the Committee give Randy's nomination the most thoughtful and serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress

DALE W. STRONG
5TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

449 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–0105
(202) 225–4801

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0105

September 5, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Randall Jones to the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors

Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse:

As your Committee considers the nomination of Mr. Randall "Randy" Jones to serve on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors, I write to respectfully convey my support. I believe Mr. Jones's background and ability to navigate and resolve complex challenges make him uniquely suited to serve TVA and its stakeholders at a critical time.

For nearly five decades, Randy has proven himself to be a successful entrepreneur, building Randy Jones & Associates, Inc., from a single-location agency into a multi-state firm with nearly 100 employees. Mr. Jones has also demonstrated a commitment to his community, serving as Chairman of the Jacksonville State University Board, providing oversight on Alabama's Certificate of Need Board, and guiding utility planning in Guntersville, Alabama.

Through each of these endeavors, Mr. Jones has shown an ability to tackle immediate operational challenges and anticipate long-term risks, bringing practical solutions and insight. As TVA faces growing demands for reliable energy delivery, innovation, and fiscal responsibility, I believe Mr. Jones's problem-solving based leadership will be a valuable asset as the Authority addresses these challenges. As such, I respectfully urge the Committee's swift consideration of Mr. Jones' nomination.

Sincerely,

Dale W. Strong

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

RICK SCOTT
FLORIDA

United States Senate

ARMED SERVICES
BUDGET
FOREIGN RELATIONS
HOMELAND SECURITY
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
CHAIRMAN

October 22, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
401 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
401 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse:

It is my honor to write this letter introducing and recommending my friend, Arthur Graham, to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works as you consider his nomination to serve on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

I am lucky to have known Mr. Graham for several years, and I can say with complete confidence that President Trump was wise to select him for this position. Mr. Graham and I first met in 2008, and we continued to work together while I was Governor of Florida. Mr. Graham served as Florida's Public Service Commissioner for over 15 years, and, together, we made a lasting impact on the way Florida's utilities handled hurricane preparedness and disaster recovery. I know his experience in this and other leadership roles will serve him and the people of the Tennessee Valley Authority well as he takes on the new challenge.

Mr. Graham has experience managing and overseeing electric utilities that served nearly 10 million customers. He saw Florida through storms, and he worked to strengthen capacity, expand our electrical grid, and develop new and alternative sources of energy. As a former businessman, I know how essential it is to have someone on your team who knows how to get to the heart of an issue. Mr. Graham is that person. He has the ability to spot common challenges, understand them, and work to address them to better serve his customers.

Mr. Graham is skilled at seeing the full picture without losing sight of the smaller pieces and how they fit together in a larger strategy. He served on the National Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and he can see how each district, including Tennessee Valley, is part of a larger, federal strategy to bring affordability and reliability to our citizens.

110 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 | 202–224–5274

More importantly, Art is a person of integrity, and I am grateful to call him a friend. I strongly recommend his speedy, favorable passage out of this committee and I look forward to supporting him on the Senate floor.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
United States Senator

August 25, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20001

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

I am writing to offer my full and enthusiastic support for the nomination of Mitch Graves to the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

I have had the privilege of serving alongside Mitch on the Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW) Board for the past nine years. Over that time, I have witnessed firsthand Mitch's deep knowledge of the utility industry, his steady leadership, and his unwavering commitment to public service.

Mitch has held numerous leadership roles on our board, including serving as Board Chairman, Audit Committee Chairman, Gas Hedge Committee Chairman, and Human Resources Committee Chairman. He currently serves as Chairman of both the Pension Fund and the OPEB Board. In each of these capacities, he has brought strategic insight, sound judgment, and a tireless work ethic to every decision and initiative.

His broad understanding of utility operations, finance, governance, and employee matters make him uniquely qualified to serve on the TVA Board. More importantly, Mitch consistently demonstrates integrity, professionalism, and an intense sense of civic responsibility—qualities that are essential for guiding an organization as impactful as TVA.

I can think of no better candidate for this significant role. I urge you to give Mitch Graves your strongest consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Pohlman

Mike Pohlman
Chairman of the Board
Memphis Light, Gas and Water
220 S. Main Street
Memphis, TN 38103



CHUCK FLEISCHMANN

September 8, 2025

Dear President Trump and
Distinguished Members of the United States Senate:

It is my Honor and Privilege to enthusiastically and totally support President Trump's nomination of L. Jeffrey Hasood to the Board of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

I have personalized this letter to stress the support for TVA and Mr. Hasood at this critical juncture for this utility.

Jeff brings common sense, business sense and unique leadership and relationship building qualities which, in my view, the utility needs at this time. Please confirm him quickly.

Respectfully, Chuck Fleischmann TN-3 M.C.

Senator CAPITO. I will order it myself.

[Laughter.]

Senator CAPITO. I am not going to object to myself.

I thank you all very much. I look forward to your confirmation. I will be voting for all of you. I think that the expertise that you bring, while varied, is extremely needed on the board, and we obviously have challenges ahead of us.

Coming from a coal State, I have to say that we have powered generations of this Country for years, and we are going to continue to do that until we find a better way. That is what you all basically were, I think, signifying to us in your answers. I thank you for that.

With no further questions, I would like to thank the nominees and all of my colleagues for their participation in today's hearing. Senators who wish to submit written questions for the record have until 5 p.m. this Friday, October 24th, to do so. The nominees' responses to those questions are due back to the committee no later than close of business on Monday, October 27th and will be submitted for the record.

I would note, Ranking Member Whitehouse did make the comment that he will be submitting some questions to you. I would pay attention to that and to those dates that I expressed.

With that, this hearing is adjourned. Thank you very much. Good luck.

[Whereupon, at 11:31 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

○