

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JEFF LANE, NOMINEE TO BE AN ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF ENERGY, CONGRESSIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

MARCH 17, 2010

Chairman Bingaman, Ranking Member Murkowski, and distinguished Members of the Committee, it is an honor and a privilege to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee for Assistant Secretary of Energy for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. I want to thank Secretary Chu for recommending me to the President and thank the Committee for holding this hearing.

As you consider my nomination for this position, I hope you will take into account my record, my experiences and my commitment of service to the Congress and to the important mission of the Department of Energy.

I have spent most of my professional life – almost 16 years – serving in senior staff positions in the United States Senate. After a short time in private law practice, I began my career here working for seven years as legislative director to my home state senator, Jim Sasser of Tennessee. Senator Sasser was the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee and a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water. I had primary responsibility for energy and water appropriations issues for Senator Sasser, including those relating to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Y-12 National Security Complex at Oak Ridge.

I also had an opportunity to work in Senate Leadership as a senior aide for three years to Senator Tom Daschle, and most recently I served as chief of staff to Colorado Senators Ken Salazar and Michael Bennet. Senator Salazar was, of course, a member of this committee. I am proud to have had the opportunity to assist him with his ambitious energy agenda, including his bipartisan work with many of you on the 2007 Energy Bill and his efforts to support the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Our office also worked with NREL to help establish the Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory, a partnership between the lab and the state's research universities.

My experiences in the Congress give me a clear understanding of the importance of the position of Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. I have a great respect for this institution, for its Members, and for its staff. I know the value of prompt attention to your questions and concerns. I appreciate the need to consider the unique issues and challenges you face in each of your states.

If confirmed, I look forward to applying the lessons I have learned here to foster an effective working relationship between the Department, the Congress, and state, local and tribal governments.

Thank you again for the time and opportunity to appear before you today, and I look forward to answering your questions.