

Statement of Corey Hinderstein
Nominee for the Position of Deputy Administrator
for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation of the U.S. Department of Energy
Before the Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
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Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, and members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before the Senate Armed Services Committee today. I want to begin by expressing my appreciation to President Biden and Secretary Granholm for the confidence they have shown in nominating me for the position of Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation of the Department of Energy.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize my husband, Chase Hinderstein [who was not able to be with me here today] but has supported me for more than 27 years and I know is watching now. I would also like to thank my father, Evan, his partner Laura, and my sister Rachel for being with me today. Finally, I would like to acknowledge my mother, Sheila, who passed away in 2005, but who I know would be very proud to see me here today.

I would also like to thank Senator Sam Nunn for his kind words of introduction. Senator Nunn is a model of public service, dedicating his life to his fellow Georgians and to the security of this country. He has been a mentor and a role model to so many, and I am proud to count myself among those that have learned from his example of vision with pragmatism, strength with flexibility, and leadership without ego. His great respect for the Senate and this Committee – in which he spent so much time and energy as Chair – makes it even more of an honor for me to be here today.

There is no more important role for government than to protect the safety, security, and opportunity for people of the United States. For this reason, the mission of the Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (DNN) of the National Nuclear Security Administration has an enormously important mission. Put simply, DNN works to:

- protect nuclear material wherever it exists in the world;
- reduce and eliminate nuclear material wherever possible;
- preserve American leadership by enabling us to meet our international obligations while holding others to their commitments;
- reduce the opportunities for nuclear weapons to spread;
- increase the chance that we will be able to detect it if nuclear activities pose a threat to the United States or our allies; and,
- focus now on developing the tools and technologies to meet future threats.

While addressing these foundational obligations of the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Energy, DNN must also work collaboratively across U.S. government agencies and build partnerships in the international community, in the nuclear industry, in academia, and with

nongovernmental organizations. If confirmed, I would seek to strengthen and expand these connections in service of our collective goals. Good ideas and good partners can be anywhere, and we need diverse viewpoints to meet the challenges ahead.

I had the pleasure of working with the DNN team for nearly three years, from 2015 through 2017. From the career civil servants, to the professional support contractors, to the scientists of our national laboratories, you cannot find a more dedicated and hard-working group of public servants. They work on nuclear nonproliferation and security because it is important and rewarding; it is certainly not for the fame and fortune. This is a job that is never done. For example, those protecting nuclear materials and facilities from theft or terrorism must get it right every day, while our adversaries only need to succeed once. The technical and political landscape is constantly shifting. Each new accomplishment is followed by a new challenge. If confirmed, I would be proud to stand by their side as they work to sustain progress while innovating solutions.

I have committed almost 25 years of my career to addressing nuclear nonproliferation and security issues and creating practical and actionable approaches to difficult challenges. Most of that time has been spent in civil society, but I have always wanted to dedicate more of myself to public service. I am humbled by this opportunity to do so at a critical time for our nation's future.

Thank you for inviting me to appear before the Committee today and I look forward to your questions.