

Statement of Dr. Brent Park  
Before the United States Senate  
Committee on Armed Services  
March 1, 2018

Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Reed, distinguished members of the committee, it is a tremendous privilege to appear before you today. I am honored to have this opportunity to serve my country and wish to thank President Trump and Secretary Perry for having placed their confidence in my ability to lead the Nuclear Security Administration's Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation.

Mr. Chairman, if you will permit me, I would like to introduce and thank my family who are here to support me, especially my wife of 23 years, Min Park, who has championed me throughout my career and whose encouragement during this process has been unwavering. Also with me today are my daughters Clara, a recent university graduate, and my youngest, Ella. And, watching from afar are my parents in Nevada. Finally, I would also like to thank my close friends and colleagues for their support and good counsel during the confirmation process.

Mr. Chairman, the United States has long been a leader in the global effort to combat nuclear proliferation. NNSA's Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation leads those efforts, securing nuclear material around the world, building international partnerships to raise barriers against the illicit transfer of proliferation sensitive technologies or materials, and eliminating highly enriched uranium and separated plutonium.

If confirmed, my top priority will be to continue executing DNN's crucial mission, supporting the President's objectives of achieving and maintaining a balance between the promotion of legitimate nuclear commerce and controlling the spread of weapons usable material, equipment, technology, and expertise. Mirroring NNSA Administrator Lisa Gordon-Hagerty's recent testimony, these objectives cannot be accomplished without people. If confirmed, maintaining the core competency of the workforce across the enterprise will also be a one of my highest priorities. A significant portion of the NNSA workforce, specifically scientists,

engineers and technicians, are approaching retirement in the next five years. To retain critical nuclear nonproliferation and weapons expertise, and cross train the workforce, I will work to ensure that we are able to employ the brightest and the best by recruiting, retaining and growing the highly skilled workforce needed to strengthen the nation's security against nuclear threats.

For more than 20 years, and most recently as the Associate Director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, my professional life has been dedicated to the nuclear security enterprise. I have led and managed complex interdisciplinary science and engineering programs and formulated transformational R&D, built on sound business and operational experience. My work has included collaboration with the U.S. national defense, homeland security, and intelligence communities in the application of advanced technologies to meet national security requirements. As the Director of the DOE/NNSA Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL), I led efforts to advance and field cutting-edge technologies in support of counterterrorism and radiological incident response for the nation. To lead NNSA's Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, if confirmed, would be the highest honor of my career.

Mr. Chairman, defense nuclear nonproliferation, and indeed the nuclear security enterprise is at a crossroads. Should I be confirmed, I will work tirelessly with my NNSA, DOE, and interagency counterparts to ensure the United States continues to lead in the global efforts to combat nuclear proliferation and terrorism.

Again, I thank you for inviting me to appear before this Committee today. I am prepared to answer any questions you have now and, if confirmed, to address questions that you may have in the future.