

**Statement of Frank A. Rose**  
**Nominee for the Position of Principal Deputy Administrator of the**  
**National Nuclear Security Administration**  
**Before the**  
**Committee on Armed Services**  
**United States Senate**

**May 24, 2021**

Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, and members of the Committee, it is a great honor for me to appear before the Senate Armed Services Committee today.

I would like to thank President Biden and Secretary Granholm for the confidence they have shown in me by nominating me to be the next Principal Deputy Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). I'd also like to thank several members of my family, including my mother Athalyn, father Frank, sister Nikko, and the rest of my family for their support, not just today, but throughout my life.

As the President's March 2021 Interim National Security Guidance notes, the United States and its allies face a complex set of current and emerging threats. Some of the most pressing threats include an increasingly assertive China, a destabilizing Russia, and the continuing challenge of nuclear proliferation. To address these threats, the guidance states that the United States will continue to maintain a safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrent; pursue arms control arrangements; and renew American leadership on nonproliferation.

NNSA plays a critical role in responding to these threats. If confirmed, I will work closely with the NNSA Administrator to achieve several key priorities. The first priority would be to maintain a safe, secure, and effective strategic nuclear deterrent to enable the United States to deter threats to itself and its allies. This includes plutonium pit production; uranium processing; completing the various warhead life extension programs currently underway; modernizing NNSA's aging infrastructure; and supporting the naval nuclear reactors program.

Secondly, I would work to ensure that the United States possesses the right tools to address the arms control, nonproliferation, and verification challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The challenges in this area are fundamentally different than what we faced in the past, especially with regard to issues like verification of nuclear warheads, cyber security, and threats to the Nation's space assets. NNSA and the national laboratories are well positioned to help the U.S. government meet these challenges.

My third priority is people. At the end of the day, NNSA's ability to achieve its mission ultimately depends on the ability to recruit, develop, and retain a highly skilled workforce of national security professionals, especially the "next generation" of leaders and experts. In recent years, significant progress has been made in this area through programs like NNSA's Graduate

Fellowship Program. If confirmed, building on and expanding these types of critical personnel programs, including at the labs, plants, and sites, will be one of my highest priorities.

Finally, none of these priorities can be achieved by NNSA alone. To the contrary, it will require partnerships with Congress and across the U.S. government – the Department of Defense, Department of State – and with our allies. One of the most important attributes I would bring to the position of Principal Deputy Administrator is a long history working for – and with – NNSA’s key partners. For example, I previously served as Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance; a Professional Staff Member on the House Armed Services Committee; and as a Foreign Affairs Specialist and Special Assistant at the Department of Defense. If confirmed, I will work to ensure NNSA’s partnerships remain strong.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee today. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.