

Opening statement for Brendan P. Rogers – Nominee for Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and the Environment.

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of the Committee.

It is an honor to appear before you as the nominee for Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and the Environment. I am grateful to Senator McCormick for his generous introduction and to President Trump for his trust and confidence in me.

I would also like to thank Secretary Hegseth and Secretary Phelan for focusing on a warfighting culture during this crucial period.

Three things bring me before you today in consideration of this nomination – my friends and family, my commitment to our Sailors and Marines and an appreciation for the threats we face.

My motivation begins with my friends and family, whose combined support has shaped my path. Most importantly, my wife, Brigid, and our four children, Michala, Tiernan, Keely, and Finn, are with me today. I want our kids to inherit the same freedoms and opportunities I have been blessed with. Those freedoms are not guaranteed - they are secured by our strength and the sacrifices of those who serve. I am committed to supporting our Navy and Marine Corps warfighters and their families in pursuit of their missions so our nation remains strong and free for all Americans.

Second, I am inspired by our Sailors and Marines, who face demands every day. My grandfather graduated from the Naval Academy in 1932 and served as a career surface warfare officer. My father graduated from the Naval Academy in 1957 and spent 30 years as a Marine helicopter pilot. I followed their path, graduating from the Naval Academy in 1990, and serving 10 years in Naval Special Warfare. The Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment oversees a portfolio critical to how our warfighters live, train, and operate. If confirmed, I will tackle these responsibilities with urgency and resolve - focused on delivering reliable infrastructure, safe housing, resilient energy and water systems and continued access to realistic training environments. Our Nation asks a great deal of our warfighters and their families, and we must match that with unwavering support.

Third, I feel a strong call to service, especially in these uncertain times. I have watched, with growing concern, indicators of a broader conflict emerging - escalating espionage, global competition for resources, attempts to restrict freedom of navigation and divergent views on world order. We are seeing intrusions on our home soil with increasing frequency: a sustained cyber assault on our infrastructure and frequent drone incursions over our military facilities. These are not abstract incidents or distant occurrences – they are real and present threats. Our national leadership is responding, and I feel obligated to join that effort.

Throughout my career, I have been privileged to work both in and out of uniform. In the SEAL Teams, I operated across the globe in various challenging environments – sea, air, land, and subsurface – alongside joint service members and our international allies. Those experiences gave me a deep respect for operational excellence and the need to be ready for any challenge. Mission readiness not only underpins strategic success – it’s also a responsibility owed to our warfighters and their families.

In the private sector, I cut through complexity to make investment and operational decisions while managing diverse stakeholders. Ten years as an investor taught me to uncover the operational and financial truths of a business, revealing the overly optimistic narratives often presented. Ten more years serving as a Chief Operating Officer taught me to lead across disciplines with distinct cultures and priorities and align them around common goals and disciplined trade-offs. In both roles, I learned that mission success depends on clear and consistent communication, as well as robust accountability and experience-based risk management – principles that guide my leadership today.

My finance career instilled in me a deep respect for fiduciary responsibility - a principle that guides the decisions made on behalf of our clients. If confirmed, I will bring that same commitment to managing the substantial assets and budget within the Navy’s Energy, Installations, and Environment portfolio. Smart stewardship demands innovation, fresh thinking, and cost discipline.

If confirmed, I will emphasize readiness, innovation, open communication, and accountability. Much has been accomplished, but more is required to meet the significant challenges ahead. I will draw on my experience in uniform and business, and work in close partnership with this Committee and Congress, within the Department of War, and with additional stakeholders across government, industry, and our communities.

Together, we will strengthen the foundation on which our Sailors and Marines live, train, and fight - ensuring the Navy and Marine Corps remains a globally present, forward-deployed force ready to project strength and secure our national interests.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.