Eric Ueland
Opening Statement
Nomination to serve as Comptroller General of the United States
November 19, 2026

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Peters, thank you for the privilege of appearing at this hearing, and the Committee's consideration of my nomination to serve as the ninth confirmed Comptroller General of the United States.

It's an enormous honor to be nominated, and I am deeply grateful to President Trump for this privilege.

I've had the honor of working in both the legislative and executive branches. Here in the Senate, I've worked across the aisle and with members of Congress in both parties for many years, moving legislation forward, and negotiating across the aisle, between the two chambers, and at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue for good legislative outcomes. I have a demonstrated deep respect for the Congress—its work, its operations, its ability to produce—and if confirmed, very much look forward to rejoining the legislative branch.

Throughout my time in the executive branch, I've worked for outstanding leaders at the White House, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Department of State. I've been the acting director of the Office of Government

Ethics, run our nation's foreign assistance, run the President's Management Agenda, and served as the acting leader of USAID. I've learned much in ensuring alignment between administration priorities and underlying statutes. From the executive branch, I take a deeper and better knowledge of how agencies and departments actually operate on behalf of the American people.

I believe my background in both branches provides me the insights and expertise to lead the GAO with competence and focus to drive oversight and pursue accountability, and help Congress provide best value to taxpayers.

Throughout its first 100 years, GAO has made a meaningful difference for Congress in government operations, spending, policy, planning, and execution. Its name change in 2004 reflects GAO's power to hold government accountable, to support improvements, and to shine a spotlight on difficult matters. GAO together with Congress can provide enhanced oversight and investigative capacity, contribute to rigorous and scrupulous committee work, highlight Congressional policy priorities, and offer careful analysis of programs in action. GAO can elevate policy tradeoffs, and enhance the possibility of legislation being successful when put into practice.

Congress has assigned other roles to GAO as well. It inventories and follows all appropriations spending provisions, providing an invaluable resource of knowledge for those crafting, and evaluating, Federal spending laws. It reviews contract protests, through a careful statutory framework. It provides a learned guide for Federal auditing and financial management. And it evaluates questions around application of the Congressional Review Act in the Senate.

With a budget of over $900 million and a workforce of nearly 3,000 employees, the Comptroller General is responsible for ensuring GAO's overall structure responds well and fully to inquiries, and is best organized to discharge its responsibilities. As we move further into the 21st century, I'll focus on finding ways to ensure GAO is even more nimble and responsive. The application of new technology to GAO's work needs even more urgent thinking, and how GAO recruits, trains, and retains its employees, and marries their skills with advanced technology, will be a significant priority of mine if confirmed.

As the Comptroller General, I will listen to GAO's staff, learn from them, plan with them, and lead them to significant accomplishments. And how GAO

communicates what it does deserves a focused effort to provide maximum impact, to drive public information and created significant policy improvement.

GAO's reputation is well-earned for thoroughgoing investigation, careful scrutiny, and studied conclusions. It is relied on by Congress and the public to put a focus on challenges large and small, call for and drive change, repeatedly review and identify improvements, track progress over time, and offer recommendations for course corrections. The powerful work of GAO will continue, and improve, if I am confirmed.

My serious respect for Congress, and the work done by GAO, excite me about service as Comptroller General. The Comptroller General job on any question is to gather the facts, understand the law, and then to call it as he sees it. That's exactly what I will do.

If confirmed, I'll put my best forward every day on behalf of GAO: take every call, attend every meeting, learn more about any issue, and fully serve Congress. The role requires no less, and I will give it my all. Thank you.