

Opening Statement of James J. Woodruff II, Nominee for Board Member, Merit Systems Protection Board, Before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

Chairman Paul, Ranking Member Peters, and distinguished members of the Committee: I want to thank you for the honor of appearing before you today. I am honored that President Donald J. Trump nominated me for to fill the position of member of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

I want to thank my family, Stephanie, James, William, and Jack for their love and support on this journey.

I would also like to thank the many leaders of the United States Air Force that have and continue to develop me as a leader and public servant. I would like to specifically thank Col Jesse Hamilton, Lt Col Matthew Ramage-White, Lt Col Ryan Johnson, and Lt Col Ian Phillips for preparing me for leadership at the next level.

If it had not been for the Air Force, I would not have gained the eight years of federal civil service employment law experience that I now have. It was being ordered to active duty in 2016 that began this journey. Effective 1 December 2016, I was assigned to the civil litigation directorate where I advised commanders from locations around the world on employment law matters. I was also tasked with litigating cases on behalf of the Department of the Air Force before the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The tour at the directorate ended in December 2019 but the experience and knowledge gained continued to be put to use as I advised commanders on employment issues at the 920 Rescue Wing, the United States Air Force Warfare Center, the 11th Wing, and the Pentagon.

If confirmed, I look forward to the opportunity to work closely with the other Board member, Henry Kerner, to protect the federal civil services' merit-based system.

Thank you, and I am happy to answer any of the Committee's questions.