

Chairman Akaka and members of the Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I am deeply honored that President Obama has nominated me to be the Director of the Office of Government Ethics. I have been part of OGE's leadership team for the past six years. OGE is a small agency with the big mission of making sure the public can have confidence in the government's impartiality.

I have been asked why I would want to take on the responsibility of leading this agency. My answer is that I am committed to the solid ethics program that sets America apart in preserving the integrity of government operations. I am an ardent believer in OGE's mission, and I want to expand my contribution to public service.

I am a career civil servant who has come up through the ranks and knows the ethics program. I have worked collaboratively with

agency ethics officials. I believe I know how to build consensus among them to make the ethics program even stronger and more efficient than it is now.

In my current and past roles at OGE, I have worked to help the ethics program meet the challenges of increased transparency, accountability and access that Americans expect from their government. I have worked with OGE's staff and agency ethics officials to make government ethics not merely an aspiration but concrete in terms of its effect on the government.

Every day, some part of the ethics program that OGE oversees is at work in every agency in the executive branch. This program is ensuring that ethics is a top priority for appointees as they begin government service. It is ensuring that public servants at all levels remain free from conflicts of interest --and even the appearance of conflicts of interest-- as they do their jobs. It is ensuring that employees who are seeking to leave the

government avoid conflicts of interest and, after they leave, ensuring that they do not have undue access to their former agencies on behalf of others. Above all, it is working to protect the public's trust in government.

I seek to lead OGE because I believe so strongly in all of these things. When I come to work each day at OGE, I know I am supporting a mission that cuts across government and is part of the very bedrock foundation of public service. If confirmed as Director, I would welcome the opportunity to lead OGE in meeting the challenges that lie ahead.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I thank you again for your consideration of my nomination.