

STATEMENT OF WOODY JOHNSON
NOMINEE TO BE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED KINGDOM
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
July 20, 2017

CHAIRMAN CORKER, RANKING MEMBER CARDIN, AND DISTINGUISHED SENATORS:

I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TODAY. I AM GRATEFUL TO PRESIDENT TRUMP FOR NOMINATING ME TO BE THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND. I AM ALSO HUMBLLED THAT I MAY BE PERMITTED TO ACT AS THE AMBASSADOR OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

BOTH FAMILY HISTORY AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCE CONFIRM TO ME THAT PUBLIC SERVICE IS BOTH A PRIVILEGE AND AN OBLIGATION, AND THAT THE TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ARE PROFOUNDLY IMPORTANT.

TODAY I AM JOINED BY MY WIFE SUZANNE; MY CHILDREN JAMIE, DAISY, ROBERT AND JACK; AND, MOST GRATIFYING, MY 97-YEAR OLD MOTHER, BETTY. DURING WORLD WAR II, MY MOTHER, MINNESOTA-BORN AND RAISED, SERVED IN THE NAVY, TEACHING CELESTIAL NAVIGATION TO SAILORS. SHE INSPIRED IN ME THE IMPORTANCE OF SERVICE AND LOVE OF COUNTRY. I ASSURE YOU THAT SHE EXPECTS NOTHING LESS THAN THE BEST FROM ME AND, IF CONFIRMED, I WILL NOT DISAPPOINT.

I AM COMMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES' HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UK. ALMOST 100 YEARS AGO, MY GRANDFATHER OPENED JOHNSON & JOHNSON'S FIRST OVERSEAS OPERATION IN THE UK, AND THE COMPANY IS THERE TO THIS DAY. DURING WORLD WAR II, HE TOO SERVED IN THE MILITARY AND HELPED SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES PLAY A DIRECT ROLE IN THE UNITED STATES' WARTIME PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM; THIS PARTNERSHIP, THIS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, STILL ENDURES.

I FIRST TRAVELLED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM MORE THAN 50 YEARS AGO, AND HAVE BEEN BACK MANY TIMES FOR BUSINESS AND PLEASURE. I CARE DEEPLY ABOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH IT. IF CONFIRMED, I WILL DEVOTE ALL OF MY ENERGY TO STRENGTHENING AND DEEPENING THAT RELATIONSHIP.

CHAIRMAN CORKER, RANKING MEMBER CARDIN, AND SENATORS, AS THE UK UNDERGOES A COMPLEX TRANSITION, POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY, THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE UNITED STATES. I BELIEVE I CAN MAKE A CONTRIBUTION BY DRAWING UPON BOTH MY BUSINESS AND PHILANTHROPIC EXPERIENCE.

I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF MANAGING MANY ORGANIZATIONS, BRINGING TOGETHER PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND PERSPECTIVES. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT DIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE ARE STRENGTHS IN ACHIEVING SHARED GOALS AND

PRIORITIES. IN MY YEARS OF WORKING WITH THE RWJ FOUNDATION TO IMPROVE AMERICANS' HEALTH, I LEARNED THE VALUE OF PATIENCE AND TENACITY IN MEETING CHALLENGES. THE FOUNDATION'S FORTY-YEAR MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR EFFORT TO REDUCE SMOKING IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE.

AFTER MY DAUGHTER JAMIE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH LUPUS, I LAUNCHED THE ALLIANCE FOR LUPUS RESEARCH IN 1999. I DID THIS NOT ONLY TO TREAT MY DAUGHTER, BUT TO HELP THE 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE U.S. -- NINETY PERCENT OF THEM WOMEN -- STRICKEN BY LUPUS. IT TOOK YEARS TO BRING TOGETHER THE BEST SCIENTISTS, ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES AND CAPITAL SOURCES TO MAKE IT THE WORLD'S LARGEST NON-GOVERNMENT FUNDER OF RESEARCH TO TREAT AND CURE LUPUS.

OWNING THE NEW YORK JETS HAS TAUGHT ME THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMITMENT AND PERSEVERANCE. ONE EXAMPLE IS THE TEN-YEAR EFFORT WE UNDERTOOK TO BUILD A NEW, PRIVATELY-FUNDED, \$1.6 BILLION STADIUM IN THE MEADOWLANDS, IN THE GREAT STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

IF CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE, IT WILL BE MY MISSION TO PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN AMERICA'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UK. THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS BEEN OUR MOST STEADFAST ALLY IN PROMOTING FREEDOM, FAIRNESS AND THE RULE OF LAW. MY FIRST TASK THERE WOULD BE TO KNOW THE TALENTED PROFESSIONALS AT THE EMBASSY. I HAVE BEEN TREMENDOUSLY IMPRESSED BY THE PROFESSIONALISM AND DEDICATION OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND THE EMBASSY IS HOME TO MANY OF OUR BEST PEOPLE. I WANT TO INSPIRE AND ENABLE OUR EMBASSY TO PROVIDE EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES. IF CONFIRMED, MY GOAL WOULD BE TO PROVIDE THE STRONG LEADERSHIP NEEDED TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN OUR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE POSITION OF UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED KINGDOM. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR QUESTIONS.