

Statement of Ambassador Geoffrey R. Pyatt
Nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Energy Resources
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 23, 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member, for the honor of appearing again before this committee as President Biden's nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources. This is a pivotal time for the ENR bureau, with headlines highlighting the importance of energy issues to our economy, the daily lives of Americans, and our national security, and I am grateful for the confidence that President Biden and Secretary Blinken have placed in me with this nomination.

I would also like to introduce my wife Mary, who has been my indispensable partner through a 33-year Foreign Service career and is joining me today. I am grateful for the support that members of this committee and its staff have offered through my nine years as an Ambassador in Europe. If confirmed, I am committed to continuing that collaboration.

Energy issues have been a major focus through the past two decades of my career. As U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, I saw every day how Russia weaponized energy to undermine European sovereignty and facilitate corruption. Putin's brutal invasion has caused a global spike in energy prices and Americans are suffering at the pump as a result. Our government is working tirelessly to minimize this pain, including by leading historic coordinated releases from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve alongside our partners and allies. If confirmed, I will continue ENR's efforts to bolster fuel supplies on the global market and thwart Russia's use of energy as a weapon of war.

Energy diversification is crucial to this effort. Over six years in Athens, I was proud to partner with the Greek government to help that country become a leading ally promoting diversity of energy sources and routes in Europe. Importantly, our Embassy team also supported Greece to adopt one of the EU's most ambitious energy transition agendas, often partnering with American companies that are creating jobs here at home.

This committee has shown welcome interest in China's efforts to dominate the supply chain for inputs like critical minerals essential to the deployment of clean energy technologies. If confirmed, I commit to collaborating with you and your colleagues to secure critical mineral supply chains. I would also seek to sustain momentum for the Department of State's recently-announced Minerals Security Partnership to ensure U.S. access to minerals that go into cleantech like batteries. I would work with the ENR team to build robust, responsible supply chains to support economic prosperity in the United States.

Putin's brutal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine has rewritten the global energy map and the United States has worked with our allies and partners to address the severe impacts, especially on Europe's energy security. Among Putin's many miscalculations in launching this war was his failure to anticipate how his actions would make our alliances stronger and accelerate energy transition. Together with the EU, member states, global allies and partners, and the private

sector, we are re-directing energy supplies to Europe, increasing efficiency measures to reduce overall energy demand, and accelerating the deployment of renewable technologies.

My aim, if confirmed, will be to work with our allies and partners diplomatically and programmatically to free them from dependence on malign actors like Russia, to ensure that the United States and our partners benefit from the economic opportunities of the clean energy revolution, and expedite a low-carbon future that provides reliable and affordable energy to all segments of society.

Earlier in my State Department career, I was honored to serve at the U.S. Mission to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, where we worked intensively to advance clean nuclear power. I was also a part of the negotiating team for the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Agreement, which played a critical role in unlocking the relationship between our two democracies. If confirmed, I will work closely with colleagues from the State Department's ISN bureau and the Department of Energy to support American leadership in civil nuclear technology, including the new generation of small modular reactors that promise a reliable source of baseload power while advancing our urgent climate goals.

As a career Economic Officer, I take seriously the imperative to defend American commercial and technology leadership. If confirmed, I will work with business leaders and entrepreneurs to promote investment in U.S.-led energy technologies across all sectors — especially those needed to realize a low carbon future. I would look forward to working with ENR's energy transformation and programs offices to amplify this effort.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, energy security is front page news right now, but as Senator Lugar recognized in calling attention to these issues some two decades ago, our success requires persistent and strategically focused diplomacy to bolster our international energy partnerships. If confirmed, I would be honored to contribute to that task. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to answering your questions.