

**STATEMENT BY STUART JONES
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO JORDAN
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

It is an honor to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to serve as Ambassador to Jordan. I am grateful to the President for his nomination and to Secretary Clinton for her confidence in me and for her leadership of our Department. If confirmed, I will do my best to live up to their trust and to work as closely as possible with this Committee to advance U.S. goals in Jordan. I will also build on the excellent work of my predecessor and friend, Ambassador Steve Beecroft, to deepen our partnership with the government and people of Jordan.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce my family. My wife, Barbara, a former Foreign Service officer, and my two sons, Thaddeus and Woody, are here today. My daughter, Dorothy, is unable to join us because of school obligations. I am grateful for their support, especially during this year while I have served as Deputy Chief of Mission at our Embassy in Baghdad.

Mr. Chairman, Jordan is one of our closest partners in the Arab world. We share mutual interests and values. It is well known that Jordan has been a powerful agent for peace in the region. As one of only two Arab states to sign a peace treaty with Israel, Jordan is committed to the achievement of comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Jordan has also been a valued partner on Iraq. It accepted hundreds of thousands of refugees and hosted them with dignity, opening its schools and hospitals and collaborating with the international community in providing humanitarian aid. The Jordanian Prime Minister was the first high level visitor to Baghdad after Iraq's new government was formed in January.

As other countries have faltered, Jordan has undertaken important reforms. King Abdullah is a leader who has long listened to his people. In November 2010, Jordan held free and fair elections under procedures that met international standards according to both international and domestic election observers. In February, we welcomed a new Jordanian government with an ambitious mandate for political reform. The King has also established a National Dialogue

Commission with a three-month timeline to enact electoral and political party reform.

We support the King's and the government's efforts to implement a reform agenda that responds to the aspirations of Jordan's citizens. Our efforts include working with Jordanian government institutions and with Jordanian civil society to expand citizen participation in the country's political and economic systems; strengthen independent media, the judicial system, and the rights of women and laborers; and increase religious tolerance.

Our economic assistance programs are also aimed at addressing structural challenges in the Jordanian economy. Jordan is one of the most water-starved nations in the world. The Millennium Challenge Corporation is funding a five-year program on water management in Zarqa which we hope will provide a template for water management throughout the nation. Jordan has also been impacted by rising energy costs; we are now engaging the Government of Jordan to promote energy efficiency and explore the potential for shale gas production. These are just two examples of our extensive programs in Jordan. Assistance also strengthens Jordan's capabilities to support and contribute to Middle East peace efforts, international peacekeeping operations, counter-terrorism efforts, and humanitarian assistance within the region.

If confirmed, I will work with the Jordanian government and people to ensure that all of our assistance effectively and efficiently advances a sustained and comprehensive partnership and to ensure that these programs create genuine benefits in the lives of the people of Jordan.

We have a large Embassy in Amman. I care deeply about the welfare and security of our personnel – American and Jordanian. If confirmed, I will also dedicate myself to ensuring efficient and cost-effective stewardship of our programs.

I appreciate and value this Committee's oversight of our mission in Jordan. If confirmed, I look forward to welcoming the Committee's members and staff to Amman. Your presence and interest are a vital element in ensuring that we remain productively and successfully engaged with the government and people of Jordan.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you.