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Statement of Mr. Jordan Gillis

Senate Armed Forces Committee Hearing to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment

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Thank you Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of the Committee. It is a great privilege to appear before you today as you consider my nomination to be the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment.

Thank you Senator Perdue for your kind introduction. I would also like to thank the President for nominating me and Secretary Esper and Under Secretary Lord for their confidence in me and providing the support of their talented staff throughout the process. I am humbled and truly grateful to have the opportunity to continue to serve the nation.

I'd like to acknowledge my wife, Leigh Ann, who is here with me today and who has supported me always, especially through my deployment to Iraq while she was pregnant with our first child. And our children, Ann Bedford and Thomas, who are both in school today and serve as my daily reminder of why we maintain institutions like the Military and this very body.

I finally want to thank the Army, which awarded me a Pentagon internship while I was a cadet, providing me with awareness of the opportunities to serve this country as a civilian.

One of the most formative experiences of my life was my military service in uniform, which carried on a family tradition of servant leadership. It was an honor to come back to the Army to serve as the Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary for Installations, Energy, and Environment. That has given me great insight into a significant portion of the ASD(S) portfolio. More importantly, it clearly reminded me why we're here. Specifically, and simply, it is to support the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Family members, and Civilians of the Military. It is to enable the warfighters who carry out the Department's mission to fight and win the Nation's wars. I hold them in the highest regard. That is a task and an obligation that I take very seriously.

To that end, Secretary Esper has outlined clear priorities for the department and Under Secretary Lord has operationalized them for her portfolio. If confirmed, I will do my utmost to support these leaders and the Nation we serve together. We have sustainment decisions to make that will have far-reaching long-term impacts, and we have obligations to Service Members and Families that need to be met now. I am specifically aware of critical issues involving PFAS, privatized housing, materiel readiness, logistics reform, installation resilience, and the Organic Industrial Base, among others, which need persistent effort and attention. I am ready to begin addressing these issues immediately.

If confirmed, I pledge to work with Congress, the Services, industry, and other stakeholders to enhance quality of life and to improve and sustain military readiness. Neither the importance nor the demands of this position are lost on me – and I will dedicate myself fully to it. Thank you again. I look forward to your questions.