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## TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY NOMINEES

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, the Tennessee Valley Authority or TVA is a multi-billion a year utility – one of the largest in the nation. It plays a critical role in our economic development efforts in Tennessee by providing low-cost, reliable power that is essential to attracting, retaining and growing jobs.

Strong, independent leadership at TVA is a priority for all Tennesseans, and the Senate is scheduled to vote tomorrow morning on two nominees to serve on the TVA board.

TVA board members' sole focus should be ensuring ratepayers throughout the Tennessee Valley have affordable, reliable power, and they must be free to operate the entity without undue influence from outside individuals.

While I respect the two nominees currently being considered, I have grown increasingly concerned by the nomination process and the potential influence – or perception of influence – that an outside investor who has proposed a multi-billion dollar project to TVA has had on this process. I have shared those concerns with the White House and the Majority Leader through several conversations.

I was particularly disappointed the Majority Leader announced he was moving forward with votes despite being aware of these issues – making it the first time TVA nominations have been confirmed by a roll call vote since 1987.

While I still believe the selection of TVA board members and their confirmations deserve a closer look moving forward, today I received copies of letters from Virginia T. Lodge and Ronald A. Walter that address the concerns regarding the potential influence of an outside individual who has business dealings with TVA.

I ask the full text of both letters be entered into the congressional record.

The nominees' forthright letters and their decision to recuse themselves helps ensure that there is no appearance of a lack of impartiality, and I plan to support both of their nominations.

**Virginia T. Lodge**

December 8, 2014

Mr. Ralph E. Rodgers  
Executive Vice President and General Counsel  
Designated Agency Ethics Official  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
400 West Summit Hill Drive  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1401

Dear Mr. Rodgers:

This supplements my July 30, 2014, letter to you describing steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest, consistent with 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, in the event I am confirmed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

While I have neither made nor been asked to make any commitments on any projects involving TVA, during the pendency of my nomination I have had contact and discussions with Franklin Haney, with whom I am acquainted, and persons associated with him. I am aware that Mr. Haney has had business dealings with TVA in the past and has made significant business proposals to TVA that may extend into the future. In order to avoid even the appearance of a lack of impartiality, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which Mr. Haney or any person on his behalf is a party or represents a party, or in which Mr. Haney, or his family, would have a direct or indirect financial interest.

Sincerely,



Virginia T. Lodge

**Ronald A. Walter**

December 8, 2014

Mr. Ralph E. Rodgers  
Executive Vice President & General Counsel  
Designated Agency Ethics Official  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
400 West Summit Hill Drive  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1401

Dear Mr. Rodgers:

This supplements my July 3, 2014, letter to you describing steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest, consistent with 5 C.F.R. §2635.502, in the event I am confirmed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

While I have neither made nor been asked to make any commitments on any projects involving TVA, during the pendency of my nomination I have had contact and discussions with Franklin Haney, with whom I am acquainted, and persons associated with him. I have become aware that Mr. Haney has had business dealings with TVA in the past and has made significant business proposals to TVA that may extend into the future. In order to avoid any appearance of a lack of impartiality, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which Mr. Haney or any person on his behalf is a party or represents a party, or in which Mr. Haney, or his family, would have a direct or indirect financial interest.

Sincerely,



Ronald A. Walter