



## STATEMENTS

### *Clean and Safe Energy Coalition*

#### *Gov. Christine Todd Whitman*

This week the Nuclear Regulatory Commission granted an operating license to the Watts Bar 2 project in Tennessee. As it is projected to be the first new operating reactor in the country to come on-line this century, this indeed is a historic moment. Granting Watts Bar 2 its operating license brings the Tennessee Valley Authority one step closer to providing the region with more clean-air, carbon-free energy. Watts Bar 2 is a leading example of how nuclear energy can help meet critical climate change goals while also keeping harmful air pollution such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide out of the air we breathe. Because of Tennessee's commitment to clean energy, and in particular nuclear energy, Tennesseans can breathe easier knowing their energy needs will be met for years to come.

### *Clean and Safe Energy Coalition*

#### *Ambassador Ron Kirk*

An operating license this week from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is an important milestone in bringing Watts Bar 2 online and ensures that the tremendous economic benefits provided by the construction of the facility will continue as it becomes fully operational. Of five new reactor projects in the country, it is expected to be the first to generate electricity. That is an achievement we should all applaud in this new era for clean and safe electricity from nuclear energy. Operating reactors in our country on average generate \$470 million in economic output and more than \$40 million in total labor every year. For Tennessee, Watts Bar 2 will contribute to the health and vitality of cities and towns across the region. The bottom line is the country needs energy solutions like this that support local jobs and make us more energy efficient.