

**Oral Statement by the Honorable Vincent Logan
Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture**

September 22, 2022

Thank you, Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, and distinguished members of the committee. My name is Vincent Logan. I have the privilege of being nominated by President Biden to serve on the board of the Farm Credit Administration. It is an honor to appear before you today seeking your confirmation of my nomination.

My parents loved this country. Both raised in rural America on family farms, both members of the Osage Nation, both served in the military during World War II and are interred at Arlington National Cemetery. My father, Oscar Logan Jr., enlisted in the U.S. Marines Corps and fought with the Fifth Division in Iwo Jima, where he was critically wounded for which he received the Purple Heart. My mother, Della Morrell Logan, served in the U.S. Army during World War II as a nurse stationed here in Washington. After the war, they both returned to Oklahoma where they met, were married, and started a family.

I vividly remember my first visit to Washington as a boy. On that trip I saw how my parents revered the great monuments and institutions of our country, those that we all cherish. I recall when we visited the Capitol, we dressed in our Sunday best and spoke in hushed tones. To this day I recall how my mother's eyes welled up when she heard the national anthem and saw the American flag.

My parents believed in service to our communities and our country. They exhibited patriotism and promoted the ideals of good citizenry. They instilled these values in me, and it is these values that led me to serve our country as Special Trustee for American Indians during the Obama Administration and lead me here today. Joining me here today is my partner, Dr. Steven Lieberman, who served as Acting Under Secretary for the Veterans Health Administration when COVID ravaged this country. Steven worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic, literally working seven days a week for well over two years. I personally witnessed his courageous efforts in service to veterans and VHA staff, leading the VHA through its darkest days. His dedication embodies the very essence of public service, always putting the needs of others before himself. He is my hero. I appreciate Steven's guidance and support, and for being here with me today.

My career in public service began in the Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General. I later worked in the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, and as previously mentioned, as Special Trustee for American Indians at the Department of the Interior. I spent most of my career in the private sector in New York, first as a corporate finance lawyer and then as an investment advisor for institutional clients. Since 2019, I have been the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer with the Native American Agriculture Fund, the largest philanthropic organization focused solely on Native American farming and ranching communities.

The Farm Credit System, established by an act of Congress over 100 years ago, has a long history and an inspiring mission to provide credit to U.S. farmers, ranchers, and agricultural cooperatives. Credit is critical to the success of farmers and ranchers. Production agriculture is capital intensive and heavily reliant on access to competitive credit. The cost of land, labor, equipment, and fertilizer is high, requiring both long-term and short-term financing. In addition to being costly to operate, agricultural enterprises also entail considerable risk, thanks to variables like weather and market forces. I am very thankful to the men and women who, despite the risks, produce the food and fiber we depend on to survive.

Although the Farm Credit System is the largest single provider of agricultural credit, it is by no means the only one. Many commercial lenders also serve the credit needs of our farmers. Farmers and ranchers benefit from these multiple sources of financing competing for business because it often results in lower interest rates and better terms.

As a government-sponsored enterprise dedicated to serving agriculture, the Farm Credit System's mission is to serve agriculture in good times and in bad. When the farm economy takes a downturn, farmers and ranchers need Farm Credit to be there for them.

It would be an honor to serve on the board of the agency that is responsible for keeping the System safe and sound and ensuring it fulfills its important mission. And I believe my education, career experience, and expertise — both as an attorney and in finance — qualify me for the position.

Although I left rural Oklahoma as a young man years ago, my love for rural America has not waned, and my desire to serve and give back is as strong as ever. If this committee in its wisdom confirms my nomination, I will put my expertise and passion to work to ensure the success of the Farm Credit System and its mission to serve our nation's farmers and ranchers.

Thank you. I look forward to answering your questions.