

STATEMENT OF LOWELL L. JUNKINS
Before the
United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
May 27, 2010

Thank you Chairman Lincoln, Ranking Member Chambliss and members of the Committee. I am grateful for the opportunity to appear before you as the President's nominee to serve as the Chairman of the Board of the Federal Agriculture Mortgage Corporation (FarmerMac)

I appreciate the Committee holding this nomination hearing, and I would like to briefly share some information about myself.

I grew up in rural Iowa and began my adult life by joining my father in our family's small business. I continued to work with my father in that and other businesses until his death 4 years ago at the age of 96. Those business experiences combined with my public service have honed my skills and helped prepare me for my service to Farmer Mac. I have served as the Vice Chairman of Farmer Mac since 1996, and a year and one half ago was chosen by the members of the board to serve as the Acting Chairman.

I have been able to see, firsthand, the wisdom of Congress, which required 5 members of the board of directors to be public members. I feel that I and the other public members have been able to challenge the board and the company to remain focused on the public mission of Farmer Mac. It is critically important that the board support both the need for the company to be strong financially for the investors, and serve the public purpose of providing liquidity that brings competition in rates to rural America.

During my service at Farmer Mac, I have been sensitive to that challenge and have strived to achieve the outcomes that Congress had envisioned. The board has faced many of the same challenges that other financial companies have in the last several years. As Acting Chairman of the board, I tried to pilot our board through the significant changes that were necessary to deal with those challenges and position the company for the future. We now have a new and stronger leadership in our management team and we have strengthened the committee and board oversight of the company. As an example, our newly adopted board policies on conflict of interest and independence are significantly stronger than required by the New York Stock Exchange and based on our information, set much higher standards than is currently in place at most private and public companies.

The future needs in rural America, more than ever, demand that we succeed in our mission, namely to bring liquidity and capital to rural America. I hope that with the support of the President and Congress, Farmer Mac can continue to meet and in fact, improve our service to rural America.

Should I be confirmed for chairmanship of the board, I am confident that my life experiences, my record of public service, and my long service to the Farmer Mac board, will give me the skills to help the board successfully fulfill its mission..

In closing, I would like to thank the Committee for holding this hearing and considering my nomination. It would be an honor and a privilege for me to serve as the Chairman of the Federal Agriculture Mortgage Corporation and the American people in that capacity.

Madam Chairman, that concludes my statement and I would be pleased to answer any questions.

Thank you.