Statement of Kristin N. Johnson

Hearing on the Nomination of Kristin Johnson to Be a Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission

United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the November 19, 2026

Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Warren, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am honored that President Trump has nominated me to serve as a Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

As we enter a season of gratitude, I am grateful to everyone who has supported me through this process: my family and friends, my colleagues, Members of Congress and their talented staffs. I am especially grateful to the Members and the majority and minority staffs on the Committee for their assistance throughout the nomination process. I have spent my recent early mornings teaching law students corporations law and securities regulation. I am generally asked to be the professor, but I am hopeful that during this memorable journey, staff members who have supported me might describe me as an eager and intellectually curious student.

When I appeared before this Committee as the nominee for Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions at Treasury, I spoke about my grandfather's great grandfather, Alexander Moss. Alexander was born in Culpepper, Virginia in 1821. He ran a storefront in Indiana and lent money to Black families and small business owners who had limited access to credit and capital. Alexander's story has long inspired me.

It is important for Americans to save, invest, and raise capital with confidence in our markets. I am especially mindful about vulnerable retail investors and savers, and families for whom a single market shock can erase years of saving. Protecting investors and promoting growth are not competing goals. An investor's decision to place her savings in our markets is an act of trust. The ability to raise capital in markets requires investors' trust. All too often, when that trust fails, the costs of failure may be most impactful for the most vulnerable investors.

If confirmed, I will draw on my service as a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), my experience as a lawyer in private practice and as in-house counsel at a large financial institution, and nearly twenty years of teaching and research. Those experiences have shaped how I understand the SEC's responsibility to protect investors, maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitate capital formation.

Today, our markets face real and notable pressures. More than ever, our markets must be transparent, competitive, and resilient. During my freshman year at Georgetown University, I began studying economics. Early in my career, I worked as an analyst supporting investment portfolios for pension plans. I think about the people counting on those pensions when I consider what investors deserve to know about the risks taken with their savings. As a transactional lawyer

following law school, I advised clients on the concerns arising from the allocation of risks. I discovered the importance of asking critical questions about the allocation of risk in markets and the dangers for investors when disclosure and corporate governance fail. This work taught me to ask what happens to investors when disclosure or transparency, corporate governance, and risk management systems fail.

I am a risk management scholar, and my research examines both the endogenous and exogenous risks that threaten to disrupt markets as well as pathways to mitigate these risks. I have spent nearly two decades as a scholar and teacher of securities, derivatives, and financial markets regulation courses at many public and private law schools in the United States and around the world. I am currently the Lyle T. Alverson Professor of Law at George Washington University Law School. I also currently serve as a Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics and as a fellow at the University of Cambridge, Judge School of Business, Centre for Alternative Finance. I chaired the Securities Regulation Section of the Association of American Law Schools and I am an elected member of the American Law Institute.

After being nominated in 2021 by President Biden, I was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate in March 2022 and served as a Commissioner of the CFTC until September 2025. During my time as a Commissioner, I participated in setting the agency's priorities for rulemaking, enforcement, and supervision, including capital requirements, risk management, clearinghouse governance, operational resilience, and cybersecurity. I supported enforcement policies aimed to protect vulnerable investors from garden variety fraud as well as sophisticated schemes that targeted certain investors based on age, religious affiliation, or other intimate characteristics of their familial and personal communities. That work included schemes that targeted retirees with limited resources.

While I served as a CFTC Commissioner, I sponsored the CFTC's Market Risk Advisory Committee, which convened regulators, clearinghouse and exchange executives, banks, intermediaries, and asset managers. The Committee's work included a real-time assessment following a cyber-attack that threatened to disrupt international derivatives markets, a study of the Treasury cash-futures basis trade, and recommendations on safeguards for market infrastructure that rely on critical third-party service providers.

This work also gave me regular experience coordinating on issues such as the integration of artificial intelligence in financial markets with other federal regulators including the SEC, the Federal Reserve, and the Treasury Department, and with international standard-setters. Our markets are interconnected, and so must be the regulators who oversee them.

This is a transformative moment in the history of capital markets and global financial markets, more broadly. Our markets face real and serious pressures. The Commission faces similar, complex questions including how to maintain resilient markets in a rapidly-evolving, highly-innovative environment marked by challenges that may lead to market disruption or dislocation.

Artificial intelligence, tokenization, stablecoins, and decentralized platforms promise lower costs and wider access, and they also raise real questions about conflicts of interest, data governance,

and accountability. In digital asset markets, I have focused on strong governance, conflicts of interest rules, and segregation of customer assets.

If confirmed, I will approach the Commission's work with three commitments. I will be guided by the law and by evidence, respecting both the authority and the limits Congress has set. I will make decisions independently, on the merits. And I will be accountable to this Committee and to Congress, responding fully and promptly to your oversight. I will rely on the SEC's career staff, whose expertise and dedication enable the Commission to fulfill its mission.

My family has maintained a strong commitment to public service. Some have volunteered for active duty and served tours of duty in active combat. Others have served as judges, legal aid lawyers, teachers, and education policy advocates for under-resourced communities, and nurses and healthcare professionals supporting indigent communities in our largest public hospitals in the country. Achieving these accomplishments requires courage.

My parents gifted to me and my three sisters a sense of infinite possibility. I am grateful to my parents who join me today. I am also joined by my son, a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School and an aspiring engineer or professional soccer player or race car driver, depending. Thank you, Jackson, for your patience as I work to be in service of others and to teach you that we must measure our actions by what we do for those who are most in need.

Thank you again for the honor of appearing before you today. I look forward to your questions.