Opening Statement of Carl Bednarski

Before the United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry

November 10, 2026

Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and members of the committee, my name is Carl Bednarski and it's an honor to be here today. I'm truly grateful to be nominated by President Trump to be a Board Member of the Farm Credit Administration.

I would like to thank Senator Slotkin for her very kind introduction. It has been an honor and privilege to work with her, and I appreciate her support and engagement.

I owe a great deal to my rural roots and my family – both of which I am very proud of. I am a third-generation farmer from Unionville, MI, and I have been married to my wife Lisa for 39 years. She is with me today. C.J., Nathan and Michael our sons, who currently operate the family farm are unable to be here this morning as they are in the midst of fall harvest.

I am truly humbled by this nomination. The privilege of serving our country's diverse agriculture community as a member of the Farm Credit Administration Board is something I do not take lightly – and I am up to the task.

I believe what makes me uniquely qualified among these talented nominees is that I have farmed most of my adult life. I have also spent decades serving in leadership roles across agriculture and insurance, helping make decisions on governance, finance, strategic planning, and policy that affect farmers every day. Those experiences have reinforced for me the importance of a strong and reliable Farm Credit System.

In 2000, I was elected to the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors, where I served for 24 years, including 10 years as President of both Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan Farm Bureau Insurance Company. In 2016, I was elected to the American Farm Bureau Board of Directors to represent the Midwest region. I am very proud of the work my team accomplished over those years.

Those experiences gave me the opportunity to travel the country and meet farmers from a wide range of agricultural operations. I saw firsthand the diversity of American agriculture and the resilience of the people who make their living from it. Time and again, farmers told me the Farm Credit System was their only source of credit. In today's farm economy, it's easy to understand why access to credit remains critical.

Before retiring from Michigan Farm Bureau in 2025, I also spent time with young and beginning farmers across the country as they started their farming careers. I saw their commitment to carrying on a way of life that is never easy but remains essential to our country. It is imperative that the system and the administration continue to support our young, beginning and small farmers. They are the future of farming, and the foundation of our rural communities.

No matter where I've traveled, I have seen how the fabric of rural America is woven together through farmers, local businesses, suppliers, processors, schools and churches. The Farm Credit System has played an important role in supporting that way of life for generations and I want it to continue for generations to come.

With the ever-changing farm economy, the Farm Credit System will be more important than ever. It will be leaned on through good times and bad as farming continues to grow more diverse and technical.

The Farm Credit Administration must continue providing diligent oversight to ensure the System remains safe, sound, and responsive to the needs of rural America. Since its creation in 1933, the Administration has worked to support and strengthen our agricultural community. I believe all of us nominated to serve must continue that mission.

While I have held many leadership roles throughout my career, I will always consider myself a farmer. And if I am privileged enough to be confirmed, I will rely on my 46 years as a farmer to help guide the agency and serve farmers and rural communities across America.

I am up for the challenge and would be honored to serve.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to answering your questions.