Opening Statement of John Grunewald II

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

November 10, 2026

Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and members of the Committee, thank you for the work you do on behalf of American agriculture. I appreciate your service and the opportunity to be here with you today. I would also like to thank President Trump for the nomination.

My name is John Grunewald II.

I grew up on a small grains and livestock farm in western Oklahoma. We raised cattle and hogs, and grew wheat, barley, milo, and alfalfa hay.

I fed livestock, planted and harvested crops, and learned the value of hard work, responsibility, and making the best of what you have.

I was also fortunate to grow up in a family with a long history in the Farm Credit System.

My great grandparents were Farm Credit customers in the 1930s. My grandfather served on the board of the Farm Credit Association in the 1940s. And some 60 years later, I had the privilege of becoming the CEO of that same association. I have a plaque in my office recognizing his service to the Board in 1942. His name was also John Grunewald.

I've always been proud of that connection.

My father was a Farm Credit customer for more than 60 years. In 1968, he received a young farmer award from his Association. After he passed away in the farmhouse where he was born, and where I was raised, I paid off his final Farm Credit loan in 2019.

That brought a lot of things full circle for me.

For more than 90 years, the Farm Credit System helped generations of my family keep farming.

After high school, I attended Oklahoma State University, and later Phillips University. I began my Farm Credit career in 1980 as a field representative and loan officer in Kansas before returning to western Oklahoma, where I served in a variety of lending and leadership roles.

From 1984 to 1992, I worked as a special credit officer, helping farmers and ranchers who were struggling financially. That experience taught me a great deal about agriculture, credit, and people. It also hit pretty close to home because, during that same period, my own father was experiencing financial stress.

I understood both sides of the desk. I knew what it was like to sit across from a farmer worried about his operation and his family's future, and I knew what it was like to be part of the institution trying to find a workable solution. I've seen the difference that a dependable agricultural lending system can make.

In 1992, I became CEO of a Farm Credit Association in western Oklahoma, growing it from $18 million in assets to approximately $2 billion. I'm proud of that growth, but even prouder of the people who helped build an organization focused on a common purpose.

If confirmed to serve on the Farm Credit Administration Board, my goal would be straightforward: To help ensure that the Farm Credit System remains safe, sound, responsive, and dependable, and that it continues to provide competitive credit to farmers, ranchers, and rural communities for generations to come.

I would continue to emphasize the importance of young farmer programs in the Farm Credit System.

Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and members of the Committee, I would come to this role with humility, a willingness to listen, and a deep respect for the responsibility entrusted to the FCA Board. I believe there is no more noble

profession than farming and ranching and it would be a tremendous honor to continue to serve agriculture.

I believe growing up on a farm and 43 years of experience in the Farm Credit System makes me uniquely qualified for this Board position.

Thank you for your time, thank you for your service, and I look forward to your questions.