I request that Board of Trustees of the Brookings Institution accept my resignation from the presidency of the institution as the Chief Executive Officer.

Prior to becoming the President of Brookings, I spent forty-five years in dedicated service to the American people and United States, serving our country and our precious citizens in peace, crisis, and war. I did so with the greatest sense of humility and pride in having been part of something greater than myself.

It was in that same spirit that I accepted the presidency of Brookings in 2017. It was an institution which I believed then, and still do to this moment, that is geared and committed to serving the greater good of all Americans, to preserving and strengthening the stability of our cherished American democracy, and to securing our and our allies interests around the globe on behalf of our untiring and unequivocal commitment to human rights and rule of law. For over a century this has been what Brookings does.

I was honored to lead the institution through the period of the COVID19 crisis, where, even though we labored through a global, lethal pandemic, Brookings contributed immeasurably to the reopening of America and the world, and to the recovery blueprints necessary for the country to advance. Brookings emerged from the pandemic stronger in every measurable way. In all this, I was particularly grateful for the opportunity to lead Brookings as its focus shifted to include an institutional commitment to race, social justice, and equity. In these difficult moments in America, Brookings scholars are making a difference every day in the lives of the most vulnerable members of our society, and I am so proud of their contributions and to have been part of that. Finally, as the world changes so dramatically under the influence of technology, I have been grateful to inaugurate the institution’s focus on artificial intelligence, data science, and other emerging technologies. Brookings has been, and will undoubtedly continue to be, the leading voice and actor in these areas in the public policy research arena.

While I leave the institution with a heavy heart, I know it is best for all concerned in this moment. I also know the institution will be wisely guided by the Brookings Board of Trustees and will be admirably and competently led by the management that remains. The Brookings Institution is a national and international asset, and always will be. I wish the Board and every member of the Brookings family the very best in the challenging days ahead.

John R. Allen