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# HEARING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF JONATHAN STEVEN ADELSTEIN, KEVIN W. CONCONNON, AND EVAN J. SEGAL TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## HEARING

BEFORE THE

# COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

JULY 7, 2009

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## HEARING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF JONATHAN STEVEN ADELSTEIN, KEVIN W. CONCONNON, AND EVAN J. SEGAL TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

#### Tuesday, July 7, 2009

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY, *Washington, DC* 

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:07 a.m., in room 328A, Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. Tom Harkin, chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Harkin, Stabenow, Casey, Klobuchar, Chambliss, and Thune.

#### STATEMENT OF HON. TOM HARKIN, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF IOWA, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Chairman HARKIN. The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry will come to order. We are meeting today on a hearing on the nominations of three individuals to take important positions at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We will hear testimony from these three nominees chosen by President Obama.

First will be Jonathan S. Adelstein for administrator of the Rural Utility Service; Kevin W. Concannon for under secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services; and Evan J. Segal for chief financial officer. We welcome you to the Committee, congratulate you on your nominations and commend you for your willingness to serve.

The administrator of the Rural Utility Services plays a vital role in helping farmers, ranchers and all rural citizens and communities across our nation enjoy electricity, telecommunications, including broadband, water, waste water systems. These services are vital elements of economic progress and quality of life for our rural communities.

Mr. Adelstein is a former commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission and a former member of Senator Daschle's staff when Senator Daschle was both majority and minority leader, and also when he was a member of this Committee. In both positions, he has helped in greatly crafting and then carrying our rural broadband initiatives and investments.

President Obama and Secretary Vilsack are to be commended for luring Kevin Concannon out of a short-lived retirement in Maine after serving as director of Human Services in Oregon, Maine and most recently, Iowa. I can personally attest to his ability and his dedication. Most notably during the devastating Iowa floods last summer, he ensured that thousands of Iowans received critical food assistance when they needed it.

Mr. Concannon's peers honored him in 2007 with the life achievement award of the American Public Human Services Association. I know Mr. Concannon will serve in this capacity with the same skill and dedication that marked his tenure in my state.

The chief financial officer of USDA is responsible for the financial management and oversight of an enterprise with 100,000 employees, 14,000 offices and field locations, \$128 billion in assets and about \$77 billion in annual spending. This is a very important responsibility, a position we entrust with ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent carefully to achieve the intended purposes.

Evan Segal has a strong and successful background in business. We look forward to his applying his talents and experience to the financial management of the Department of Agriculture.

Again, welcome to the Committee and I will now turn to our ranking member, Senator Chambliss.

#### STATEMENT OF HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Senator CHAMBLISS. Well thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate, obviously, you holding this very important hearing this day, but most importantly, I appreciate the three gentlemen that we are here to review today and to hopefully confirm in proper order. I welcome you, as well as your families, to the Committee.

Mr. Adelstein, as we consider your nomination to serve as the administrator of Rural Utilities Service, I recognize that you are certainly no stranger to the Senate. Your 15 years as a staffer here on the Hill will undoubtedly serve you well upon your confirmation.

As you mentioned in your written comments, you were heavily involved with expanding access to broadband service in rural areas during the 2002 Farm Bill. Of course this will be an issue that you will instantly inherit at RUS with 2.5 billion authorized in the stimulus bill for such purposes.

Additionally, you are uniquely positioned with the experience you will bring to the table from your recently relinquished tenure as a commissioner of the FCC. The digital divide is a real concern to rural and more sparsely populated areas of our country. Those without access to internet service, particularly broadband and high speed service, are disadvantaged in many ways.

You well understand this and you know that the Worldwide Web is at your fingertips and when it is, it opens countless avenues to E-Commerce, online job applications and routine daily chores like paying the bills and checking your bank statement. It even can enable better farming practices.

In my home state, the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District partnered with the University of Georgia to deploy a broadband pilot network for the main purpose of irrigation, water management and water conservation. The system communicates precise moisture levels and photos over wireless broadband to producers' laptops or home computers, allowing for optimum crop irrigation without ever overwatering.

They estimate a 15 percent reduction in water use since employing that project. In the notice of funding availability that the administration released last week for the stimulus broadband initiative programs, they recognized that the recovery act was intended for rapid disbursement of funds, but also that the program must also be administered judicially to ensure responsible use of public funds.

I agree that it is important not to sacrifice the quality of projects simply for the sake of getting them done quickly. Also, I would encourage you to extend broadband access to areas that are unserved before deploying to those who already have service options.

Obviously telecommunications are not the only area that the RUS administrator oversees and I trust that you will equally value the importance of the water and waste disposal and rural electric programs that are crucial to rural communities. Having represented a rural electric co-op for 25 years before I got to Congress, I have a very special relationship with that group, as I know you do, and we want to make sure that we treat that organization fairly and in a way that allows for rural communities to continue to get not only the best form of electric service, but now with respect to telecommunications and broadband service.

I am pleased to welcome Mr. Kevin Concannon as the president's nominee to under secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services. USDA's Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services oversees 15 domestic nutrition programs and the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion.

FNCS touches the lives of one in five Americans every year and has an annual budget of over \$60 billion, larger than many cabinetlevel departments. I am pleased that Mr. Concannon brings to the table a distinguished career in administering nutrition, health and human services programs in various states.

Your previous public service makes you ready on day one to take the helm of the FNCS mission area and oversee the implementation of nutrition child programs of the Farm Bill, as well as work with the Congress during reauthorization of the child nutrition programs.

I am especially pleased that you have a strong record with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program. It is very important to me that you maintain and build upon the recent years of success and SNAP's payment, accuracy and participation rates.

SNAP has some of the most robust quality measures of all Federal programs and public support for SNAP is strong due to overall high performance. Congress will look to your leadership to implement innovative approaches to improve payment accuracy and participation rates among eligible people.

Your strong relationships with state administrators around the company will be a major benefit to succeeding in this endeavor. I look forward to working with you to ensure that FNCS programs are effective tools to not only combat hunger in the country, but also to improve the nutritional intake of all Americans. Mr. Chairman, I would note also that there seems to be a continuing ring of nominees that come up here that have some connection with Iowa.

[Laughter.]

Senator CHAMBLISS. I don't know why that is, but it is a great state. Finally, welcome to Evan Segal, a new face to the Agriculture Committee. Senator Casey's introduction and his comments about you that I have already reviewed speak to your qualifications and I look forward to working with you as you assume the position of chief financial officer at the department.

Your extensive management and financial experience will be an asset as you tackle the challenges ahead. The Department of Agriculture is one of the largest of the Federal agencies, with a Fiscal Year 2009 budget of \$124 billion and approximately 7 percent of the non-defense Federal workforce.

You and I talked earlier about the fact that coming from the private sector there can be a huge change in the atmosphere when you deal with that kind of bureaucracy, but I know you are going to be up to the challenge.

You will likely find that running the department's finances will not be like those you are accustomed to, but I do have confidence that your private sector experience will help you navigate any problem you encounter. I also want to applaud your commitment to public service. You are obviously a successful businessman, have a strong commitment to philanthropy and we would like to thank you for stepping out of those roles for the foreseeable future in service to the department, its employees, as well as the American people.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased with the quality of these nominees and upon completion of this hearing, I am hopeful that we might expeditiously move these nominations in order to get USDA fully staffed as soon as possible. Thank you.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Senator Chambliss, and now for introductions of our nominees, I would first call on our guest from the House side, Congresswoman Pingree. For purposes of introduction, I am respectful of the fact that you came all the way over here and you have obligations on the House side also, to introduce Kevin Concannon.

I might just say that yes, we are proud that he was in Iowa, but he was also in Maine too, and I think that is why Congresswoman Pingree is here. I just want to welcome the Congresswoman. I have known her for a long time, previously majority leader in the Maine Senate and was the CEO of Common Cause for a number of years and now in her first term here in the Congress, strong advocate, I might add, for Children's Nutrition Programs. So I can see the great connection between you and Mr. Concannon.

So welcome to our Committee, Congresswoman, and for purposes of introduction, I will recognize you at this time.

#### STATEMENT OF HON. CHELLIE PINGREE, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF MAINE

Ms. PINGREE. Thank you very much, Senator Harkin and Ranking Member Chambliss. It is an honor to be here with your Committee and to all the other members of the Committee, thank you very much for allowing me to spend a couple of minutes speaking about our great Maine native, Kevin Concannon.

I will say first, you are right, I am a newly elected member of the House, so it is quite a treat to come over here and visit with the Senate once in awhile, and I am also pleased to be on the Agriculture Committee.

I may have mentioned to the chair before, but my family were all Scandinavian immigrants who moved to Iowa when they came here to this country and farmed there for many years in Story City, so we got our start there and I also have a background in agriculture, so while I do not serve on this committee in the House, I am pleased to be with you at least for a minute, and also very pleased to also just be here while you are confirming or looking at the nomination for Mr. Adelstein.

I got to know him a little bit when I worked at Common Cause and he was on the FCC and you have a wonderful lineup of nominees here today and I know he would also do great work for our country.

But I am really here today just to say a few words about Kevin Concannon and I truly am honored to introduce him, to be in the presence of his family and to talk a little bit about his great work in Maine, as well as Iowa and the State of Oregon.

I first got to know him when I served as the Maine Senate Majority leader, as you mentioned, and we did a whole variety of work on child nutrition, on seniors, on TANF, on healthcare, and most notably for me, on the area of prescription drugs and availability of prescription drugs. Kevin was serving at the time as the commissioner of Health and Human Services for an independent Governor in Maine and he had an exemplary record of outreach, but also working well with both sides of the aisle, which was very helpful to me in my particular position.

He and I worked together on a bill to make sure we could ensure more access for prescription drugs for our senior citizens and I can say without a doubt that bill would never have passed without the support of Mr. Concannon, his credible work, his ability to work with both the Governor on both sides of the aisle and all of the legal issues surrounding it.

It actually got a unanimous vote in the Senate in the State of Maine and nearly unanimous in the House. Of course, it is a little more rowdy body, as you know, but we passed and to his credit, in 2003, when it was heard here at the United States Supreme Court, because of his great understanding of the legal work as well, it was seen to be approved by the Supreme Court. So he has just an incredible record.

He is very well regarded in our state. He is seen as a compassionate, enthusiastic and energetic public leader. He manages very well at the interface between state and Federal laws, which proved to be very helpful, certainly when I was working with him, and I know it would serve him well in this job.

He did a lot of interesting work, not just in the area of healthcare and child nutrition, but also with people with disabilities, the frail elderly, using a lot of creative community options and alternatives to make sure everyone had access to care.

He oversaw Maine's food stamp and WIC program, did tremendous work around outreach and eligibility to simplify that in making sure that all Maine residents who were eligible had access to the programs that they needed. I just think that his diversity of experience will serve him, this Committee, the Department of Agriculture extremely well.

I cannot think of a better nominee. I cannot think of anyone I have enjoyed working with more when he was in our state and someone who comes with a greater reputation from the other states that he has worked in. Should you choose to confirm his nomina-tion as under secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, I think that he will do an extraordinary job in this time of tremendous need and I think he will put his creativity and experience to work for this country and we will all be well served.

So thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak about Mr. Concannon and I hope that you choose to confirm him and I think he will do very well. So thank you very much.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you, Congresswoman, very much. You can stay if you like, but if your duties on the House side require you to leave, we certainly understand that.

Ms. PINGREE. I will stay a couple minutes, thank you.

Chairman HARKIN. I would now like to turn to the two South Dakota senators, Senator Thune and Senator Johnson. I guess, how would I do this?

Senator JOHNSON. I am senior.

Chairman HARKIN. You are senior, OK.

[Laughter.]

Chairman HARKIN. I will turn to senior Senator Johnson first and then Senator Thune.

#### STATEMENT OF HON. TIM JOHNSON, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Senator JOHNSON. Chairman Harkin, Senator Chambliss and members of the Committee, it has been a long time since I last served on this Committee. It is good to see the Georgia peanuts.

Chairman HARKIN. Right.

Senator JOHNSON. I am pleased to introduce a fellow South Dakotan, Mr. Jonathan Adelstein, as the Senate Ag Committee considers his nomination for U.S. Department of Ag, administrator for Rural Utilities. I can think of no one better qualified for this impor-tant position than Jonathan. He brings to this position an impressive background as an advocate for rural America, as well as a dedication to working in a thoughtful, bipartisan way.

His role as the commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission and previous experience as a policy advisor to former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle demonstrates his talent and commitment to public service. I would especially like to mention that as a staff member in Senator Daschle's office, Jonathan was heavily involved in enacting legislation in the 2002 Farm Bill which influenced the development of the Rural Utilities Service Telecommunications Program to include a broadband agenda.

It is only fitting that Jonathan now be entrusted with administering the very same program he helped craft. Our rural communities maintain diverse interests and needs and I am confident Jonathan will expertly navigate these diverse stakeholder concerns to ensure a vibrant future for our rural communities.

Our rural America has an excellent voice in Jonathan and I urge the members of this Committee and my Senate colleagues to confirm Jonathan Adelstein's nomination. Thank you.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Senator Johnson. Welcome back to your old stomping grounds here. It is nice to see you.

We now turn to our distinguished member of this Committee, Senator Thune.

#### STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN THUNE, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Senator THUNE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Senator Johnson stated it well, but I also want to join him and congratulate Jonathan and welcome him to the Committee and look forward to him being confirmed to this important position.

I want to thank our other noms for their willingness to serve as well. These are important jobs, but there are a few people in public service today, Mr. Chairman, who have a better understanding of rural issues, particularly telecommunications issues, than does Jonathan Adelstein. Jonathan, as Senator Johnson noted, has served on the Federal Communications Commission for the past 7 years.

He was confirmed twice by the U.S. Senate, both in 2002 and 2004, to that position.

He has been an outspoken advocate on behalf of consumers and carriers in rural America. Whether it is spectrum allocation or universal service or broadband access, rural consumers could always count on Jonathan's leadership within the Federal Communications Commission and I think it is very fitting that he be nominated to serve as director of the Rural Utilities Service, particularly as the RUS begins to deploy \$2 billion in rural broadband assistance. His experience with rural telecommunications issues is going to come in especially handy and I think prove to be an invaluable skill set as he comes into the job.

High speed broadband is key to economic development in rural areas. It is absolutely essential that as we distribute these funds, that it be done in the most efficient and effective way possible, particularly in unserved and underserved areas, and I am confident that Jonathan is the right person for that job.

Before serving on the FCC, as Senator Johnson noted, Jonathan had a very distinguished career here on Capitol Hill, working legislative issues for a 15-year period, dealing with telecom, housing, transportation, financial services and prior to that, was a teaching fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and also at Stanford as a teaching assistant in the Department of History.

He has MA and BA degrees from Stanford University, so terrific academic background. I believe his diverse experience makes him uniquely qualified for this position and particularly when you look at the important challenges that we have in front of us when it comes to rural infrastructure programs in this country, whether that is water, electricity, telecommunications, you name it. So Mr. Chairman, this Committee has a long history of bipartisanship, as does the Adelstein family. Jonathan is originally from Rapid City, South Dakota, where his father, who is with us today, Stan, serves as a state legislator, as well as a successful businessman and philanthropist. The Adelstein family has a proud tradition of public service and I want to welcome Jonathan, as well as his family members, his wife, Karen, and his children, Adam and Lexi, to the Committee today as well. They live here in the Washington, D.C. area.

So Mr. Chairman and Senator Chambliss, I congratulate Jonathan on this nomination. As I said before, I cannot think of anyone more qualified to perform the important duties that are associated with this position and I hope that we will quickly confirm him into the job so he can begin going to work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Senator Thune. And now for introduction of Evan Segal, I turn to another distinguished member of this Committee, Senator Casey, from Pennsylvania.

#### STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT P. CASEY, JR., U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Senator CASEY. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much and I appreciate the prompt action on scheduling this hearing. I know how busy you are as a member of several committees, including the Health Education Labor Pensions Committee, as we deal with healthcare reform, so we are especially grateful for your work in scheduling this hearing and I want to thank our ranking member, Senator Chambliss, as well.

I want to commend the two nominees that are here with us that I will not be speaking about, but I want to commend them, Mr. Adelstein, Mr. Concannon. Mr. Concannon was nice enough in one of our—during the midst of a hearing to meet with us in a hallway, which was particularly—we are particularly grateful for that in the midst of our schedule.

But I am here to speak about someone who is my friend and I should be very candid about that, he is a friend of mine and so some of what I say might reflect that friendship. But I think it will be an objective assessment of his record, his character and his ability to lead as the chief financial officer for the United States Department of Agriculture.

Evan Segal's reputation as an outstanding business owner and his commitment to public service makes him an excellent choice for this position, the chief financial officer of such a big Federal Government agency and such an important agency, to places like the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but really across our country.

Evan is a former owner and president of Dormont Manufacturing Company, the nation's leading manufacturer of flexible stainless steel gas appliance connectors. During his time as the CEO of that company, and just imagine this, those of us who think we can run things, he oversaw the dramatic growth of the country—the company I should say, from sales of 5 million to sales of 60 million, creating 250 jobs in the process.

He is currently an executive in residence at the Carnegie Mellon University Tepper School of Business and he serves as a mentor for startup companies. In addition to his business qualifications, Evan has a long history of service to his community, for groups like the Community Day School, the Evan and Tracy Segal Family Foundation, the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh's Management Committee, and the Carnegie Mellon University Tepper School of Business that I mentioned before. I have no doubt he can do this job and I have no doubt he can do this job well.

But I have to say in a personal way that our commonwealth is very proud of you, Evan, today. It is rare that a state can send someone to Washington at such a high level in such a significant agency at a very important time in our nation's history, when we are dealing with a world and national economic crisis, we are dealing with the ravages brought about by that and hunger and people not having enough to eat and all of the ramifications for the Department of Agriculture, as well as a tough time for our farmers and their families.

We are grateful that you would be willing to serve, so our commonwealth is proud of you and you should know that as you start. I know that Tracy is proud of you. She was before today as well, and that Tess and Ariel are proud as well. But I know Evan Segal to be tough, smart and honest and we can ask for no more from our public officials, whether they be elected or appointed.

Finally, let me say that one of the things that has guided a lot of people who serve in public office is a set of principles. One of them—one of those principles is etched into the building in our state capital, the finance building where I used to work. It says very simply, all public service is a trust given in faith and accepted in honor.

I have no doubt that Evan Segal, as an important member of the team at the Department of Agriculture, lead by Secretary Vilsack, who has roots in Pennsylvania, but Iowa gets to claim him as well, but I know that as part of that team that Evan will live by that, that motto that public service is a trust, that it is given to those of us who have a chance to serve with a sense of expectation that we are going to discharge the responsibilities we have with honor.

Evan, I know you are prepared for this job. We look forward to your speedy confirmation. I cannot stay for the hearing today because like Senator Harkin, we have to eventually get back to our Health Committee meeting, markup actually. But I am grateful that you are willing to serve. We are proud of you and God speed.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you all and now that you have all been formally and duly introduced, I have two housekeeping things. First, I must administer an oath and I would ask you, all three, to rise and raise your right hand.

Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you are about to provide is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. Adelstein. I do.

Mr. CONCANNON. I do.

Mr. SEGAL. I do.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much and you may be seated. Do each of you agree that if confirmed, you will appear—this is an important question—do you agree that if confirmed, you will appear before any duly constituted committee of Congress if asked to appear? Mr. Adelstein?

Mr. Adelstein. I do.

Chairman HARKIN. Mr. Concannon?

Mr. CONCANNON. I do.

Chairman HARKIN. Mr. Segal?

Mr. SEGAL. I do.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you all very much. And now, we will turn to opening statements in alphabetical order, Mr. Adelstein and then Mr. Concannon and Mr. Segal. If you could keep your statements within five to 7 minutes or so.

We also like to ask our nominees to introduce their family members. I know Mr. Thune mentioned that you had some family members here and others, so Mr. Adelstein, I will recognize you, your statement. All of your statements will be made a part of the record in their entirety. I will just ask you to summarize them, but before you do that, Mr. Adelstein, how about introducing your family who is with you?

Mr. ADELSTEIN. Well thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would love to. My wife, Karen is here, who has put up with the life of a public servant for a long time and supported me through everything. My son, Adam, is here, who is skipping camp for this. His sister, Lexi, did not skip camp. She is in camp, but she would love to be here as well.

My father is here from South Dakota. Senator Chambliss mentioned there is an Iowa connection everywhere. He was born in Sioux City, so I guess that is mine.

Chairman HARKIN. Well he did not move too far.

Mr. ADELSTEIN. All the way to Rapid. But he is also a state senator, as Senator Thune mentioned, and chairman of the Health Committee in the South Dakota State Senate, so very interested in what you are up to over in the Health Committee.

Chairman HARKIN. When we are through here, do you want to come next door? We are having our Health Committee markup there, as Senator Casey said.

Mr. ADELSTEIN. My niece Shirley and her fiance, Josh, are here as well. Love to have them. My brother, Col. Dan Adelstein, is here, who also is a public servant, serving in the House of Representatives as a staff member for Geoff Davis of Kentucky. His wife, Judy, is also a public servant—we have a lot of this in the family—who is a person that works at the FDA. So we are—my brother-in-law is here, Ike Brenner, and his wife, Jennifer Brenner. We thank you for coming and that is a good crew of family from—

Chairman HARKIN. Very good. Thank you very much for being here.

[Applause.]

Chairman HARKIN. Great family. Please proceed, Mr. Adelstein.

#### STATEMENT OF JONATHAN STEVEN ADELSTEIN, NOMINEE TO BE ADMINISTRATOR, RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE, U.S. DE-PARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. ADELSTEIN. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much, and Senator Chambliss, members of the Committee, thank you so much for holding this hearing. It is a great opportunity to appear before you as the nominee to be administrator of the Rural Utilities Service.

I am deeply grateful to President Obama for nominating me, Secretary Vilsack for supporting that nomination. Mr. Chairman, it is largely due to your leadership and that of many members of this Committee, that the RUS now has a unique opportunity to help restore economic prosperity for the president's stimulus package.

To meet the high expectations that you have rightfully set for the RUS, I will draw upon what I learned as a four generation South Dakotan. My great grandmother homesteaded in the Badlands and thrived there along with so many of her neighbors that were scattered around because they pulled for each other.

Her son, my grandfather, began a long family history of improving rural infrastructure. He started a construction company back in 1925 that my father, who I just introduced, took over and made that thrive before moving on into retirement to his own career in public service. His idea of retirement is being here in the winter time.

The motto of our family company remains with me even now, builders of better bridges and highways. Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, I will carry that motto with me to the RUS. Now of course, in the 21st Century economy, it means more than just roads. Through technology, people can connect in ways that my great grandmother could not have possibly imagined.

Small communities once faced economic extinction without access to the highway system that my family helped to build out there. Today they depend upon access to the main arteries of the communication system, the power of our electrical infrastructure and plentiful sources of clean water.

RUS has a critical role to bring these benefits to rural Americans. RUS strives to support utilities that are as good as any in the nation. As commissioner of the FCC over the last 6 years, as Senator Thune and Senator Johnson mentioned, I have worked on a bipartisan basis to help meet the communications issues facing rural America. It is clear to me from what I have learned that we need to upgrade our infrastructure in every corner of this country.

We need to make new technologies more widely available and affordable to everyone no matter where they live, what challenges they face, whether they have disabilities. We are going to make sure that everybody has access to the miracle of broadband. I have aggressively promoted broadband deployment and adoption on the FCC, but even though we made real strides, I have been frustrated that we have not done more. We are not keeping pace with our global competitors. We need to restore our place as the undisputed world leader of communications technology and rural America is the most important place to start.

The role of the RUS is to ensure that all the rural pipes, electric, telecommunications, and water are affordable to all and second to none. This is not only critical for the future of rural America, but to our country's overall economic growth.

In the 15 years I served on the staff of Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, I saw firsthand the commitment that Congress has made to rural Americans. If confirmed, I will use that experience, and of course, your guidance, to maximize the effectiveness of RUS as Congress envisioned.

In fact, as Senator Johnson pointed out, one of my proudest achievements in the Senate was advising Senator Daschle during the 2002 Farm Bill Conference. Mr. Chairman, you and Senator Daschle really took the lead on creating provisions to expand the scope of RUS to include support for broadband.

Rich Bender and Shawnee Wiggins and I kind of camped out at the conference here to make sure that that program worked. Along with you and your staff, Mr. Chairman, we helped move the RUS into the 21st Century, beyond just voiceovers to the broadband world. The administrator at the time was Chris McLean, who is here now, and he gave us some good guidance along the way as well.

It would be a special honor if confirmed to implement the program to make sure that it works well. We need to help young people who want to stay in the small towns, farms and communities where they grow up to find economic opportunities if they want to stay there. Modern utilities are essential to address their needs on so many levels, just to name a few, in terms of health, education, public safety, employment and the general quality of life.

These systems are the backbone of our economic development efforts. If confirmed, a special party that I would be eager to address is American's need for renewable energy. There is also a pressing need for safer drinking water, better waste water systems for many of our rural communities, which are essential to the health of our citizens.

All of this can be done in a way that promotes diversity, respects civil rights and all of our program and employment practices. Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, I will work to continue the proud family tradition we have of building better bridges and highways. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Adelstein can be found on page 28 in the appendix.]

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Mr. Adelstein. And now we will turn to Mr. Concannon, and Mr. Concannon, if you would introduce your family members who are here with you.

Mr. CONCANNON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce my wife, Eileen, is over here on the right-hand side, and my second oldest son, Michael, in the middle here with the yellow tie, and then our son Steven, and then our youngest son, John, and our granddaughter Catherine Concannon.

Two of these folks are from Maine, from southern Maine, and my son Steven lives just outside of Boston. So thank you very much. Chairman HARKIN. Thank you for being here.

[Applause.]

Chairman HARKIN. Especially Catherine.

#### STATEMENT OF KEVIN W. CONCANNON, NOMINEE TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD, NUTRI-TION AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Mr. CONCANNON. Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Chambliss, members of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, I am Kevin Concannon, appear before you as the nominee for under secretary of Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services.

I want to thank Congresswoman Chellie Pingree of Maine's 1st Congressional District for that very generous and kind introduction. She and I work very well together and I look forward to working with her and members of this Committee if confirmed.

I am most grateful to President Obama and to Secretary Vilsack for placing their confidence in me, especially at this time in this challenging economy and when our country is so mindful of the millions of our fellow Americans facing the struggles of food insecurity, poor nutrition, obesity and the resulting health problems and costs associated with these circumstances.

I am passionately committed to the obligation we share to those less fortunate among us and should the Senate vote to confirm my nomination, I will work diligently to provide the leadership and sound stewardship over these portfolios of food, nutrition programs and consumer services.

In my roles as a state health and human services director in Iowa, Maine and Oregon, among parallel program responsibilities, I have overseen and championed USDA programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly the Food Stamp Program, WIC, Women, Infants and Children, the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and have advocated for the School Lunch, School Breakfast and Summer Feeding Programs.

Last year in Iowa, with widespread devastation caused by tornadoes and unprecedented flooding, emergency disaster food assistance and SNAP benefits were among the first and vital elements in assisting thousands of Iowans adversely affected by these natural disasters.

I had similar experience with these programs a decade ago in Maine during a major winter ice storm and its extended aftermath, so I know firsthand these are essential safety net programs. Providing ready access to nutritious, affordable food through these USDA programs is an expressed goal of President Obama, Secretary Vilsack, many members of this Committee and throughout Congress.

Iowa has been a leader in promoting local farmers markets as a venue for affordable produce through SNAP and wireless technology. If confirmed, I will continue to promote through USDA programs such as SNAP and WIC, expanded access to farmers markets, both for the benefit of our program enrollees and growers, but I will also continue to advance the understanding and perspective I espouse as a state official. These programs are purposely and strategically in the Department of Agriculture because at their core, they reflect the output of American farming.

Programs such as SNAP benefit at least three major groups of Americans, the 34 million current recipients of the program, nearly half of whom are American children, food suppliers, food stores, retail outlets, and the farmers who ultimately grow the food. I feel especially fortunate and honored to be here today as a first

I feel especially fortunate and honored to be here today as a first generation American. My parents, now deceased, were Irish immigrants, naturalized citizens who conveyed to their children among other human values, a sense of our good fortune as Americans, our obligation to others, and our respect for government. While there is no shortage of challenges and obligations within the FNCS at USDA, should the Senate choose to confirm me, I will also work to find common cause with other sectors within USDA, with sister Federal agencies such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Administration for Children and Families in the Health and Human Services Department, and the U.S. Department of Education, who share responsibilities in areas of focus that impact American consumers and particularly low-income children and adults.

From my state level experience, I know that some of our most effective initiatives are those that help people, were those that cut across organizational boundaries and limitations. Importantly, I have enjoyed the many opportunities and outcomes of working with Governors and state and Federal elected representatives. If confirmed, I pledge to work with members and staff of this Committee and other parts of Congress and meeting our obligation to the American people through the programs and services of the Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services.

Finally, I wish to express my love and appreciation to my wife, children, their families and my brothers and sisters for their support and encouragement over the years, my years in public service. They have made sacrifices and their particular enthusiasm for this opportunity for me to serve in a national leadership role is really one of the energizing factors for me.

Finally, I thank you for your consideration and look forward to responding to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Concannon can be found on page 32 in the appendix.]

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Mr. Concannon. And now, Mr. Segal, we will turn to you and I see you have family members here too.

Mr. SEGAL. I do.

Chairman HARKIN. Please introduce them to us.

Mr. SEGAL. Absolutely. Well, we are represented from both sides of the state. I have my wife, Tracy, and our daughters, Tess and Ariel, and my parents, Jerry and Monica Segal, all from Pittsburgh, and then from—in addition, my brother, Eric, and my niece and nephew, Jory and Julia Segal.

Then from Philadelphia, I have my sister-in-law and brotherand-law, Deborah and Peter Houston, their son, Geoffrey Mills, and their grandson, Sean Mills, and in addition, my cousin, my nephew, Brian and Graham, also from Philadelphia. So I am glad they are all here and we are excited.

Chairman HARKIN. Great family.

Mr. SEGAL. Thank you.

[Applause.]

#### STATEMENT OF EVAN J. SEGAL, NOMINEE TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. SEGAL. Mr. Chairman, Senator Chambliss, and the distinguished members of the Committee, I am honored to be here today as the president's nominee for the chief financial officer of the United States Department of Agriculture. I also want to thank Senator Casey, not only for his kind words, but for his leadership, his intelligence and his integrity in representing the State of Pennsylvania. My journey leading me to today's meeting really began 30 years ago, when I worked several summers in my father's factory sweeping the floors, picking up shop towels, assembling products and running production machines.

It was a great opportunity to learn the business from the bottom up and develop relationships with those people whose hard work and sweat are the backbone of our country. I had the fortunate opportunity to attend Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, where I earned both a BS and an MBA from the Tepper School of Business and I had the opportunity to learn many skills, tools and concepts that have prepared me for my business career.

One of the strongest lessons was the opportunity to work in teams with highly talented people in a high pressure environment. Upon graduation, I joined Scott Paper Company as a financial and strategic planning analyst. At Scott, I was able to actively participate in the management of a large organization with many complex operations. I learned the importance of disciplined systems, structures, processes, lessons that would serve me well throughout my career.

After several years at Scott, I decided to return to Pittsburgh to join my father at Dormont Manufacturing Company. Dormont manufactured flexible, stainless steel gas appliance connectors, the metal hose that is used to hook up gas appliances to the gas supply line. Over the next 20 years, we significantly expanded the business and created many new jobs.

We were highly focused on integrating world class management processes into our business and scaling them to help achieve our goals. Along with an incredible group of talented people, we began to utilize quality management tools, including lean manufacturing and Six Sigma. We focused on developing and training our people to manufacture and deliver the highest quality gas connectors in the world at a competitive price and with an unmatched level of customer service.

The ability to effectively execute and implement our goals enabled us to create a highly successful business. In addition, I had the opportunity to work with a wide range of customers, suppliers and end users from all around the United States and around the world. For all of our customers, regardless of size, which range from some of the largest corporations to small family businesses, we were committed to their success.

Over the past 3 years, I have been fortunate enough to be able to give back through my active involvement in several philanthropic organizations. These different experiences have helped make—have given me many invaluable lessons that upon confirmation I think will help me succeed in my role as the chief financial officer at the Department of Agriculture.

First there was the phrase that my father taught me. People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care. In this case, caring means a deep respect for the people that you work with, the conscious need to listen to their ideas, thoughts and opinions and the desire to help them succeed, whether it is in the workplace, the global arena or on the athletic field, success starts with people who are willing to work together toward a common goal.

Second, successful organizations highly focused on the implementation of its strategies and goals, recognizing that it needs to work smart and to utilize the skills, tools and knowledge to meet and exceed those objectives. This starts with active listening, learning from past successes and failures and building on the cumulative wisdom of the organization.

The next step includes the development and alignment of the organization's mission with its strategies, goals and objectives. Next is perhaps the most challenging part, which is successful execution. This includes the development and regular monitoring of well defined goals and metrics. Finally, it includes working collaboratively with all stakeholders to implement the changes to help achieve the agreed upon goals.

Third, through our commitment at Dormont, world class quality and zero defects, I learned the importance of utilizing the skills and talents of our people, combined with well-defined processes, to increase quality, improve efficiency, eliminate waste and lower costs.

It is possible to improve customer service and lower costs through collaborative teamwork and effective implementation of proven systems and processes. I understand that the Department of Agriculture is a highly complex organization that supports a wide range of missions in various areas of responsibility. It is also a department that has many highly talented, experienced professionals who work every day to fulfill the mission of the Department of Agriculture.

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer encompasses a wide range of responsibilities, including financial systems, financial policy and planning, financial operations and the National Finance Center. These activities include active involvement in strategic planning, ongoing accounting operations, audit and internal control functions, financial reporting, and cost-effective systems and services to other Federal organizations. Fortunately, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer already has a tremendous staff that does an excellent job everyday in fulfilling these important responsibilities.

I look forward to this wonderful opportunity to serve our country in working with this talented team of professionals. I understand the critical importance of carefully managing the financial systems of the department and upon confirmation, I will work effectively, collaboratively and with great diligence to support the goals of the Obama Administration for the Department of Agriculture.

In addition, I want to state my commitment to civil rights at the department. I will work hard to ensure the department's employment practices will not tolerate any form of discrimination. I will build upon my experience and knowledge and lessons learned as a successful business owner, corporate executive, entrepreneur and educator to provide the leadership and financial management skills to support the department and its stakeholders.

Finally, I want to thank my wife and my family for providing unconditional love and understanding in all my endeavors. Their support has enabled me to realize the many successes in my career and allowed me to be here today. I also want to thank the members of the Committee for this opportunity to appear before you today. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Segal can be found on page 34 in the appendix.]

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Mr. Segal. Thank you all for very great statements, and again, I congratulate each of you on your nominations and we will do what we can to expedite this.

I just have about one question for each of you. Mr. Segal, since 2000, the Risk Management Agency has successfully utilized data mining of information on the operation of the Federal Crop Insurance Program to detect potential fraud and abuse and achieve considerable program savings. I believe that this technique has also been used with some success in recent years in detecting fraud in the SNAP, in the Food Stamp Program.

Will you commit to looking into how this tool might be used for other USDA programs which make significant payouts to large numbers of individuals? And in particular, I would ask that you call in a former colleague of ours on the House side—well I served with him in the House before I came to the Senate; well you did too—Charlie Stenholm, a former ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee, who has briefed my staff on this and brought to our attention the savings that were obtained by this data mining of information?

I don't know if you have looked at that or not. If you haven't, I would just ask that you please take a look at that.

Mr. SEGAL. Absolutely, Senator, and upon confirmation, I would be glad to look at not only that, but all tools that really look at how we can run the department more efficiently and more effectively.

Chairman HARKIN. As I mentioned in my statement, how many offices you have and how many people, you are spread all over the country, I mean, the world. For a chief financial officer to have that many different locations and different people in every aspect of agriculture, that is a big job, so in any ways that we can find and how we can achieve savings and streamline things and bring things up to modern standards.

Of course, one of the big problems you have, you probably already know this already, is your outdated computer system. Senator Chambliss I know has wrestled with this. I have, a lot of us have wrestled with how we are going to leapfrog that and get that up to present standards.

So I would be looking forward to any suggestions that you have to us on how we do that. If you have any statements on that, I would be glad to listen to it right now, just on how we get that outdated computer system up to present standards.

Mr. SEGAL. I think it really goes back to the basic problem-solving methodology, whether it is the computer systems or whatever. Obviously, coming from Carnegie Mellon, having some good background with computer systems—but I think it is fundamentally and I think you and the Committee members have dealt with this for a number of years, it is initially—and this comes from some of the Six Sigma methodology, but really defining the problem and then understanding what the goals or objective are in terms of what we are trying to do, what are the specific opportunities that we can to move ahead, and then put in place those fixes both short term and long term.

I think that once you have a problem-solving methodology that is effective, and that is really essentially what a Six Sigma methodology is, it is a problem-solving methodology that can be applied to whether it is the IT infrastructure or the crop insurance fraud or data mining, whatever it might be, it is using a methodology that is proven, that is successful in making it work.

I really look forward upon confirmation working with you and the members of the Committee and would be glad to meet with you and your staff to address any specific concerns that you or Senator Chambliss or other members of the Committee might have.

Chairman HARKIN. OK, thank you very much. I look forward to that. Mr. Concannon, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, I think this Committee and our counterpart in the House side, we have been very good at promoting the production of food in this country, no doubt about that. Look at the success we have had since World War II.

But now we have another problem and that is nutrition. We know the growing rates of obesity in this country. We know the problems of hypertension and diabetes, all the things that are affected by early nutrition programs. And so this year, as you know, we are supposed to reauthorize the Child Nutrition Bill, School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. I hope we can get that done before the end of the year.

I am kind of just curious about your previous experiences in those areas touching on child nutrition and any thoughts you might have on where we should be headed. Now as you know, one of the things that we are contemplating, it is going to be, at least in our chairman's mark on the bill and I think on the House side too, and that is, giving the secretary of Agriculture the authority to regulate all of the food in school.

Right now the secretary just has the authority to regulate the food in the lunchroom, so you go outside the lunchroom down the hall and there are the vending machines and all the junk food. So we are contemplating—I shouldn't use the word—we are going to start the process of having the secretary have jurisdiction over all the food in the school so that the nutritious foods that we put in the School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs are not undermined by the vending machines and a la carte lines and that type of thing in our schools.

I just invite you, any thoughts you might have on that, things that you might look forward to doing in the nutrition area. You mentioned that farmers—farmers markets. You did a great job in Iowa on that and I commend you for that. And where we did the wireless technology where people could go with their coupons—not coupons, but—

Mr. CONCANNON. EBT cards.

Chairman HARKIN. EBT cards. EBT cards. And have it immediately swiped in the farmers markets, I think that worked.

Mr. CONCANNON. Yes.

Chairman HARKIN. I think it worked well. Any thoughts about expanding that?

Mr. CONCANNON. Yes indeed, Senator. I am very interested in seeing what we can do, both—I know the secretary has mentioned that, and the president, in his concern about the very issues you cite, obesity and promoting sounder nutrition for Americans. Clearly the fact that the USDA, the programs, even in the Food Nutrition Service, amount to nearly \$80 billion annually in expenditures. The good news is the impact that it is having in terms of providing access to food for people.

But we recognize, just as you have cited, the growing concern in the country, the phenomenon of obesity- and diabetes-related health issues. I am very mindful before I start, and should I be confirmed, of the opportunities to work with other Federal agencies, the CDC, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

I reflect back on state experience in dealing with smoking, as an example, and some of the most effective anti- smoking efforts we took were not those isolated in the public health sections of state agencies, but those that cut across to Medicaid to the Child Welfare Agencies, to the TANF programs.

So I am very anxious to look at what the history has been so far of our mutual efforts, mutual aid efforts with other enforcers on the Federal side and partners in the state and local agencies to try to deal with this. I know it is—in part it is a cultural thing. We have evolved to this over the past 30 or 40 years and it is going to take efforts on a number of fronts.

To your question about schools, I know at the state level we often encounter the issues of schools frequently raising funds through their soda machines and other avenues in the school for extracurricular activities. We got considerable pushback to our efforts to try to again have a more coherent policy of nutritious food. So I am very anxious and would be happy to work with the Committee on that.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Mr. Concannon. We look forward to working with you on that also. There are some bumps in the road, but I think they can be overcome; I really do.

Mr. Adelstein, again let me thank you for all your work in the 2002 Farm Bill. You mentioned that in your statement, in getting the broadband provisions in there. It did not quite work out exactly like we thought they were going to work out and there were some problems there, but as you know, we just put, what was it, 2 billion, 2 billion, right, in the stimulus? Two billion in the stimulus for—

Mr. Adelstein. 2.5.

Chairman HARKIN. I stand corrected, 2.5 billion in there for broadband. So now we want to do it again, but we want to do it right and we want to get that money out there.

I do not think we are ever going to see that kind of money again ever for getting broadband technology out to our smaller communities and it is so important. We talk a lot—you know, this Committee is viewed upon a lot of times just as we are farmer oriented, but we have to be looking at the infrastructure also.

So many of our small communities that our farmers rely on are drying up, and when they do not have businesses that they can deal with or even schools to go to, where kids are going an hour in the morning, an hour at night just on a bus to school, they leave when it is dark, they come home when the sun is setting in the wintertime—a lot of times even our churches are closing up. They have to go an hour away just to get to a church on Sunday.

So the infrastructure is kind of crumbling. I am reminded of a small business in a small town in Iowa that was growing. It was an insurance business and had they had broadband, they would have been—they had a new product they were—had they had broadband, they would have been able to expand their business in that town. They didn't, so they moved to Des Moines.

Well good news is it is still in Iowa. Bad news is it is not out in that small town where they could have added 25 people to the work rolls because they didn't have broadband.

So that is just all preface, just saying that we really have to work hard to get this money out in the way that it is intended, to get to the small communities. And a lot of times a lot of these small communities, when they put in their applications, they may not have skilled grant writers that the bigger communities have and they may make mistakes on their applications and a lot of times they get shunted aside.

I hope you will commit yourself to making sure that your staff works with these really small communities to help them. If they make mistakes, get back and work with them and get it worked out so they have an adequate chance of getting this funding also.

So that is just my way of first thanking you for your past work on it, but sort of throwing the challenge to you now. You know the background. You know what needs to be done, but making sure that we get that broadband out there to these small communities that really need it.

Mr. ADELSTEIN. Well thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to do that. This is an unprecedented level of resources and that means an unprecedented level of responsibility to get it right.

At the same time we need to get it right, we have to get it out fast in order to stimulate the economy. We saw the job numbers this week and we cannot afford to wait. And yet, we cannot afford to waste a dime of taxpayer money, so it is going to be an incredible challenge for the RUS.

Customer service is key. I think we need to be as responsive as we can to these small communities. You should not have to hire a grant writer or hire a consultant to be able to get money for a small rural town, to somebody who is gathering together. We will work with state governments. We will work with non-profits. We will work with anybody and try to find the best projects that are you know, really get broadband where they need to be.

Senator Chambliss laid out a great example of that pilot project in Georgia. There are so many examples. You can go on and on about it. I have seen them in my years on the FCC, of how broadband can transform opportunities in rural areas, economic opportunities, cultural opportunities, educational, healthcare, the list goes on and on. And if we do not get this right, you said, we may never get this amount of resources again. We may not get any more resources from Congress if we cannot prove to you that we were able to use that money wisely. I commit to you to do everything in my power to make sure we use it wisely, effectively and get broadband out to every part of the country that needs it, that we can afford to with the amount of resources you provided.

Chairman HARKIN. I appreciate that very much. Congratulations again to all of you. Thank you very much and I will turn to Senator Chambliss.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Adelstein, continuing with that line of the 2.5 billion in the stimulus package for broadband, the I.G. issued a report back in March of this year in which he stated that the overwhelming majority of communities, in fact 77 percent, receiving service through a broadband program already have access to technology without the RUS program and when I talked in my opening comments about the fact that we really do need to get this money in unserved areas, that is an example of why.

I know you are aware of that, but it really is important that we spend the money No. 1, and that has been one of our issues; we have not been spending all of the money that is there. But now we have some new opportunities. But we do need to make sure that folks in rural Iowa, as well as rural Georgia and rural Texas, are getting access to broadband.

I urge you to address this early and to really figure out innovative and creative ways that we can make sure it gets to those people that you talk about that do not have the resources to come in with a huge grant writing capability.

I want to talk for just a second about nuclear energy. I realize that once confirmed you are going to report to Secretary Vilsack, but I recently saw where the Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu said that nuclear energy, and I quote, "has to be a part of the mix." And he described it as a clean base load energy resource.

Georgia, my electric co-ops, as well as the municipal systems and Georgia Power, have teamed up to build two new nuclear plants adjacent to Plant Vogtle, which they already own. It is a nuclear power-producing facility. Since nuclear power is a non-carbon emitting source of power, it would seem to me that this project would be a perfect candidate for RUS base load financing and since you will directly oversee the rural electric programs, can I get a commitment from you to ensure that you will work to reestablish base load financing for nuclear power at RUS?

Mr. ADELSTEIN. Senator Chambliss, there are, as you know, impediments to financing base load generation currently with OMB and also there was an attempt in the Farm Bill to open up the possibility of having fees assessed that could help to finance those. But I will commit to you that I would be willing to raise this issue with the Administration to see what can be done.

Senator CHAMBLISS. I do think that long term this issue of carbon emissions is going to be with us and there is just no question but that nuclear power is one of the solutions to that problem. So I hope you will give it due emphasis and we will look forward to working with you on that.

One other quick issue. When the stimulus funding for the B&I Loan Guarantee Program was authorized, it has kind of been sitting there. Do you have any idea in your discussions leading up to this confirmation hearing as to when there is going to be an announcement on the disbursement of those funds?

Mr. ADELSTEIN. This is the water funds?

Senator CHAMBLISS. They would be included in there? Yeah, the Business & Industry Loan Guarantee Program, that I do not think would include the water funds.

Mr. ADELSTEIN. Right, the Business & Industry Loan, I am not familiar with that. Under Secretary Tonsager, who was recently confirmed, has been working on that. RUS does not have authority over that program, so I am not familiar with the disposition of the stimulus funds. I would be happy to look into that and get back to you forthwith on what the status and timing is on disbursing those funds.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Again, in this current state of financial uncertainties, that particular program is critical to folks not just in Georgia, but in all parts of rural America, so any emphasis you can give to that I would appreciate it.

Mr. Concannon, your mission area is leading development of the 2010 dietary guidelines in conjunction with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The dietary guidelines are updated every 5 years at considerable expense and time of Federal employees. The purpose behind the frequent update is to ensure that Federal nutrition policy is based on the most accurate science instead of diet fads or other factors.

The dietary guidelines are a key component to all Federal nutrition assistance and education programs and they focus on an overall diet and nutritional intake instead of characterizing foods as either good or bad. I mention this because there are various efforts to steer the Federal Government to implement nutrition guidance from outside sources, whether they are attempts to limit what foods can be purchased with SNAP benefits or foods sold in schools.

While there is strong bipartisan support to improve the diet and exercise habits of all Americans, and especially those that participate in USDA assistance programs, I believe that an incentivebased approach is more effective than a punitive approach of penalties and strict Federal mandates and I would appreciate your thoughts on this subject and your assurance that you will honor the dietary guidelines for Americans as the official Federal nutritional policy.

Mr. CONCANNON. Senator, I am new to some of the aspects of the questions obviously that you have raised, but I am of the understanding that in the farm bill that was passed several years ago, there were incentives, pilot program incentives to encourage people to in the, I believe it was in the WIC program, to make better use of more nutritious foods, fruits and vegetables, and it is my understanding that later this year, between some elements within the USDA and some of these pilot programs, will be reviewed for the effectiveness of some of those incentives.

The point you raised, Senator, broadly in your statement, that there are broad concerns about nutrition in the country, as it has been previously noted—and I think we need to both honor those dietary guidelines, but also work with other parts of the public and private sector to encourage both moderation and better nutritional habits for Americans.

Senator CHAMBLISS. We do spend a lot of time and a lot of money on the preparation of those dietary guidelines and studies show that few people actually follow them. In fact, I think only about 3 percent of adults, according to the most recent study, really pay much attention to those recommendations.

So I hope that you will give strong consideration to educational programs about communicating to all Americans what is contained in those dietary guidelines and make sure that we are able to get the best bang for that buck that we are spending with respect to the publication of those guidelines.

Mr. CONCANNON. Yes, sir.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Mr. Segal, I think the chairman has covered the basic points that I wanted to cover with you, with one small exception and that is, let me just say first, this issue of updating the Enterprise Financial Systems at USDA has been an ongoing project.

One of our complications has frankly been the lack of funding to adequately do the job. It is not going to be cheap. I hope that what you may do initially is to look at developing a plan. Trying to do all of this at one time may be impossible, may be impractical. I am not sure we could put a brand new computer in every FSA employee's hands within a 12-month period, so it may take us a couple of years.

But if you can develop a reasonable plan, let me just assure you that there will be bipartisan support on the Hill to see about the implementation of that plan. One aspect of that plan needs to be consideration of how we keep information relative to producers private. That is always a difficult issue to deal with, whether you are in the private sector or whether you are dealing with government programs.

So as you look at developing a system that will provide better service to our producers around the country, I hope you will think again of some innovative and creative ways and use your background to help us come up with a program that ensures the privacy on the part of those producers and that will in and of itself allow us to provide greater assistance and make sure that the people who are entitled to payments under the programs are the ones that are actually getting those payments as opposed to frankly some of the abuses that have taken place in the system.

So again, to all three of you, I would just say congratulations, No. 1, on your nomination. You are all eminently qualified to carry out the challenges that have been presented to you and we look forward to a swift confirmation and look forward to working individually with each one of you in your respective areas.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman HARKIN. I would like again ask for any—for the senators who could not be here this morning due to other commitments who would like to ask for any written questions to the nominees, to be submitted to the clerk of this committee by 6 p.m. this afternoon, by 6 p.m. today. So the staffs who are here, if there are any written questions, have them in by 6 today. We would like to get the nominees hopefully up sometime this week if we can and on the floor of the Senate. So I would—again, do any of you have anything else you would like to bring up to the Committee at all for the record or anything like that? Going once, going twice.

Again, congratulations to each one of you. We will try to expedite this process. Look forward to working with you. Thank you all very much.

The Committee will stand adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:19 a.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

## **A P P E N D I X**

JULY 7, 2009

#### Senator Charles E. Grassley Statement for USDA nomination hearing 07/07/09

I want to first start by congratulating all 3 of our nominees here today. The fact that the President has chosen each of you for these important positions is a testament to your public service and character.

This morning we'll hear testimony from Kevin Concannon who has been nominated to be the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

Although Mr. Concannon is from Maine, I want to wish him a very special welcome since he spent a good deal of time in Iowa recently as the Director of the Department of Human Services. In this role, he oversaw the state's efforts of programs like the food stamp program and WIC programs. He's also been a strong advocate for Agriculture Department programs like the School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Summer Feeding Programs.

I also had the opportunity to work with Mr. Concannon through my role as ranking member and former chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. He was always willing to work with me and my staff and I found him to be very capable and willing to listen to our concerns from the federal level.

One piece of upcoming legislation we will have before this committee later this year is the Child Nutrition reauthorization. I expect our nominee to have a great deal of input into this process and I look forward to drawing on his state expertise to help us get a comprehensive bill passed.

Each of our nominees will play an important role in continued implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill. Getting this done expeditiously, but most importantly – correctly is your fundamental charge and on the top of everyone's priority list.

I look forward to working with each of you in the future, and again, congratulations on your nominations.

U.S. Senator John Thune Opening Statement July 7, 2009

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I'd like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for holding today's confirmation hearing for three important roles within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

I'd especially like to welcome again, Jonathan Adelstein originally of Rapid City, South Dakota, to the Committee today.

If confirmed as Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service, Jonathan will have his plate as the head of an agency that

Not only is the RUS tasked with expanding rural health care, electrical infrastructure, and water projects, the RUS will administer a \$2.5 billion broadband stimulus program over the next 15 months.

This is a truly unique opportunity for rural areas to get access to quality broadband service, and I am confident that your experience with rural telecommunications issues will prove invaluable as this program is carried out.

Mr. Segal, if confirmed Chief Financial Officer of USDA, I am hopeful that your real world financial experience will help improve the transparency and efficiency of USDA activities.

Mr. Concannon, if confirmed as Undersecretary for Under Secretary of Food and Nutrition, I look forward to working with you as we implement the expanded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in a manner that benefits both the recipients and agriculture producers.

Again, thank you for your willingness to serve, and I look forward to working with each of you as we promote a comprehensive agenda for rural America.

#### TESTIMONY OF THE HONORABLE JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY July 7, 2009

Mr. Chairman, Senator Chambliss, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you as President Obama's nominee for Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Administrator. I am deeply grateful to President Obama for nominating me, and Secretary Vilsack, an outstanding advocate for rural America, for his support of that nomination.

Mr. Chairman, it is largely due to your leadership, and that of many members of the Committee, that the RUS now has a unique opportunity to help restore our economic prosperity through the President's stimulus package.

To meet the high expectations you have rightfully placed with the agency, I will draw upon what I learned growing up as a fourth-generation South Dakotan. My greatgrandmother homesteaded near the Badlands and thrived there, along with so many other pioneers who were scattered over large distances, by staying connected and pulling for each other.

Since those times, my family has a long history of improving the infrastructure of rural America. As the son of a homesteader, my grandfather served in World War I as an engineer building bridges for the Allies in Europe. Upon his return, he started a construction company in South Dakota. My father took over that business and made it thrive before moving on to his own career in public service, currently in the South Dakota Senate. My brother continues the family business today, and the motto of our family company remains with me even now: "Builders of Better Bridges and Highways." Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, I will carry that mission with me to the RUS.

However, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy, the essential connections for our communities now include more than just roads: through technology and other

advancements, citizens across the country can connect in ways more profound than my great-grandmother could have ever imagined. Communities in rural America once faced economic extinction without access to the highway system. Today, they depend upon access to the main arteries of the communications system, the power of our electrical infrastructure and plentiful sources of clean water. RUS has a critical role to bring these significant opportunities to rural Americans. It should strive to ensure that all of the essential energy, telecommunications and water utilities it supports are as good as any in the Nation. We need the same spirit of those early pioneers to ensure that the infrastructure we build for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century provides economic opportunities and improved quality of life for all our rural residents.

As a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission for over six years, I have traveled across the United States, and worked, on a bipartisan basis, to address the many challenges and seize the many opportunities facing rural America. It is clear that we must upgrade our infrastructure in every corner of this country, and make new technologies more widely available and affordable to everyone. All of our citizens should have access to the highest quality utilities, no matter where they live or what challenges they face.

I believe one of our key national priorities should be to aggressively promote the expansion of broadband deployment and adoption. Even though we've made significant strides, we are not keeping pace with our global competitors. We must restore our place as the undisputed world leader in communications technology. Some have argued that the reason we've fallen so far in the international rankings is that we are more rural than those ahead of us. If that is correct, we must cite it not as a despairing excuse but as a clarion call to re-double our efforts to promote rural broadband.

The role of the RUS is to ensure that rural pipes – electric, telecommunications and water – are affordable to all and second to none. This is not only critical to the future of rural America, but essential to our Nation's overall economic growth. I served for 15

years on the staff of the U.S. Senate, the final seven for Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, and saw firsthand the commitment Congress has made to improve the quality of life for rural Americans. If confirmed, I will use that experience to carry out the vital mission of the RUS in order to maximize its effectiveness as Congress envisioned.

In fact, one of my proudest achievements as a Senate staffer was advising Senator Daschle when he was a senior member of the 2002 Farm Bill conference committee on creating provisions to expand the scope of RUS to include the provision of loans and grants for broadband deployment. Working closely with your staff, Mr. Chairman, we helped move the RUS into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, beyond merely voice service to the broadband world of voice, video and data. It would be a special honor, if confirmed, to implement that program in a way that ensures it can reach its highest potential.

Building better rural utilities is critical to the quality of life and future economic prosperity of rural America. We need to ensure that young people who want to remain in the small towns, farms and ranches where they grew up can find the economic opportunities to do so and raise their families. Modern telecommunications and electrical and water systems are essential to address their needs on many levels: in terms of health, public safety, education, employment and economic opportunities, and general quality of life. These systems are the backbone of our economic development efforts.

If confirmed, a special priority in that mission that I would be eager to address is America's need for energy independence, which will require greater promotion of renewable energy technologies. It is also of pressing importance to bring safer drinking water, sewer systems and drainage facilities to many of our rural communities, which are essential to the health of our citizens.

During my service on the FCC, I have emphasized the need for expanding diversity in all of our endeavors. If confirmed, I will continue that effort. I will not

tolerate any form of discrimination, and will work with Secretary Vilsack to resolve any existing civil rights claims in our program or employment practices.

Mr. Chairman, if confirmed I will strive to continue my proud family tradition of building better bridges and highways in rural America. I will carry out the charge of Congress to ensure that the finest utilities serve as a basis for rural economic development. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

#### TESTIMONY OF KEVIN W. CONCANNON SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY July 7, 2009

Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Senator Chambliss, Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry:

I am Kevin W. Concannon and appear before you as the nominee for Under Secretary of Agriculture responsible for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

I am most grateful to President Obama and Secretary Vilsack for placing their confidence in me as the nominee for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, especially so at this time in this challenging economy and when our country is so mindful of the millions of our fellow Americans facing the struggles of food insecurity, poor nutrition, obesity and the resulting health problems and costs accompanying these circumstances.

I am passionately committed to the obligation we share in as citizens and governments to those less fortunate among us. And, should the Senate vote to confirm my nomination, I will work diligently to provide the leadership and sound stewardship over these portfolios of food and nutrition programs and services.

In my roles as state health and human services director in Iowa, Maine, and Oregon I have overseen and championed USDA programs including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly the Food Stamp Program, WIC – Women, Infants and Children, emergency food, commodity distribution program and have advocated for the School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Summer Feeding Program.

Last year in Iowa, with widespread devastation caused by tornadoes and unprecedented flooding, emergency disaster food assistance and SNAP benefits were among the first and vital elements in assisting thousands of Iowans adversely affected by the natural disasters. I had similar positive experiences with these programs a decade ago in Maine during a major winter ice storm and its aftermath. These are essential safety net programs.

Providing ready access to nutritious, affordable food through these USDA programs is an expressed goal of President Obama, Secretary Vilsack, many members of this committee and throughout Congress. Iowa has been a leader in promoting local farmers markets as a venue for affordable produce through SNAP and wireless technology. If confirmed, I will continue to promote through USDA programs like SNAP and WIC expanded access to farmers markets both for the benefit of program recipients and farmers.

Should I be confirmed, I will continue to advance the understanding and perspective I espoused as a state official: these programs are purposely and strategically in the Department of Agriculture because at their core they reflect the output of American farming. Programs such as SNAP benefit at least three major groups of Americans: the

34 million recipients of the program, nearly half of whom are children; food suppliers, food stores, and retail outlets; and the farmers who ultimately grow the food.

I feel especially fortunate and honored to be before you today as a first generation American. My parents, now deceased, were Irish immigrants, naturalized citizens who conveyed to their children among other human values: a sense of our good fortune as Americans, our obligation to others, and our respect for government.

While there is no shortage of challenges and obligations within the FN&C at USDA, should the Senate choose to confirm me I will also work to find common cause with other sectors of USDA and with sister federal agencies such as the CMS, CDC, and Administration on Children and Families in HHS who share responsibilities and areas of focus that impact American consumers and particularly low income persons. From my state level experience, I know that some of our more effective initiatives that helped people were those that cut across organizational boundaries and limitations.

Importantly, I have enjoyed the many opportunities and outcomes of working with Governors and state and federal elected representatives. And if confirmed, pledge to work with members and staff of the Committee in meeting our obligation to the American people through the programs and services of the Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services.

Finally, I wish to express my love and appreciation to my wife, my children, and their families, and my brothers and sisters for their support and encouragement over my years in public service, the sacrifices they have made, and their enthusiasm for this opportunity to serve in a national leadership capacity.

Again, I thank you for your consideration and I look forward to responding to your questions.

## Evan J. Segal – Testimony – U.S. Senate July 7, 2009

Mr. Chairman, Senator Chambliss, and distinguished members of the committee, I am honored to be here today as the President's nominee for the Chief Financial Officer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I also want to thank Senator Casey for his kind words and his leadership, intelligence and integrity in representing the State of Pennsylvania.

With me today are my wife Tracy and our daughters Tess and Ariel. In addition, joining me are my father, Jerry Segal; my oldest brother, Eric Segal, and my niece Julia and nephew Jory; my sister-in-law, Deborah Mills Houston and my nephew, Geoffrey Mills.

My journey leading to today's meeting began over 30 years ago, where I worked several summers in my father's factory – sweeping the floors, picking up shop towels, assembling products and running production machines. It was a great opportunity to learn the business from the bottom up and to develop relationships with the people whose hard work and sweat are the backbone of our country.

I had the opportunity to attend Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, where I earned both a B.S. and MBA from the Tepper School of Business and had the opportunity to learn many skills, tools and concepts that prepared me for my business career. One of the strongest lessons was the opportunity to work in teams with highly talented people in a high-pressure environment.

I then joined Scott Paper Company as a Financial & Strategic Planning Analyst. At Scott, I was able to actively participate in the management of a large organization with many complex operations. I learned the importance of disciplined systems, structures and processes, lessons that would serve me well throughout my career.

After several years at Scott, I decided to return to Pittsburgh and join my father at Dormont Manufacturing Company. Dormont manufactured flexible stainless steel gas appliance connectors, a metal hose that is used to attach gas appliances to the gas supply line. Over the next 20 years, we significantly expanded the business and created many new jobs. We were highly focused on integrating world-class management processes into our business and scaling them to help achieve our goals.

Along with an incredible group of talented people, we began to utilize quality management tools including Lean Manufacturing and Six Sigma. We focused on developing and training our people to manufacture and deliver the highest quality gas connectors in the world, at a competitive price, with an unmatched level of customer service. The ability to effective execute and implement our goals enabled us to create a highly successful business. In addition, I had the opportunity to work with a wide range of customers, suppliers and end-users all across the United States and around the world. For all of our customers, regardless of size, which ranged from some of the largest corporations to small family businesses, we were committed to their success.

Over the past three years, I have been fortunate enough to be able to give back through my active involvement in several philanthropic organizations. These different

Evan J. Segal – Testimony – U.S. Senate July 7, 2009

experiences have given me many invaluable lessons that upon confirmation, I think will help me succeed in the role as the CFO of the USDA.

First, there was a phrase that my father taught me: "People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." In this case, caring means a deep respect for the people that you work with, the conscious need to listen to their ideas, thoughts and opinions, and the desire to help them succeed. Whether it is in the workplace, the global arena or on an athletic field, success starts with people who are willing to work together towards a common goal.

Second, a successful organization is highly focused on implementation of its strategies and goals, recognizing that it needs to work smart and to utilize the skills, tools and knowledge to meet and exceed those objectives. This starts with active listening, learning from past successes and failures, and building on the cumulative wisdom of the organization. The next step includes the development and alignment of the organization's mission with its strategies, goals and objectives. Next is perhaps the most challenging part, successful execution. This includes the development and regular monitoring of well-defined goals and metrics. Finally, it includes working collaboratively with all stakeholders to implement changes that help achieve the agreed upon goals.

Third, through our commitment at Dormont to world-class quality and zero-defects, I learned the importance of utilizing the skills and talents of our people, combined with well-defined processes, to increase quality, improve efficiencies, eliminate waste and lower costs. It is possible to improve customer service and lower costs through collaborative teamwork and effective implementation of proven systems and processes.

I understand that USDA is a highly complex organization that supports a wide range of missions in its various areas of responsibility. It is also a department with many highly talented, experienced professionals who work every day to help fulfill the mission of the USDA.

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer encompasses a wide range of responsibilities, including Financial Systems, Financial Policy and Planning, Financial Operations and the National Finance Center. The activities include active involvement in strategic planning, ongoing accounting operations, audit and internal control functions, financial reporting and cost-effective systems and services to other Federal organizations. And fortunately, the OFCO already has a tremendous staff that does an excellent job every day in fulfilling these important responsibilities.

I look forward to this wonderful opportunity to serve our country in working with this talented team of professionals. I understand the critical importance of carefully managing the financial systems of the Department, and upon confirmation, I will work effectively, collaboratively and with great diligence to support the goals of the Obama Administration for the Department of Agriculture. In addition, I want to state my

Evan J. Segal – Testimony – U.S. Senate July 7, 2009

commitment to civil rights at the Department. I will work hard to ensure that USDA's employment practices will not tolerate any forms of discrimination.

I will build upon my experience, knowledge and lessons learned - as a successful business owner, a corporate executive, entrepreneur and educator - to provide the leadership and the financial management skills to support the Department and its stakeholders.

Finally, I want to thank my wife and family for providing unconditional love and understanding in all of my endeavors. Their support has enabled me to realize the many successes in my career and allowed me to be here today. I also want to thank the members of the Committee for this opportunity to appear before you today.

## DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

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July 7, 2009

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION (PUBLIC)**

1. Full name (include any former names used).

Jonathan Steven Adelstein (Jon)

2. Date and place of birth.

August 28, 1962; Rapid City, South Dakota

 Marital Status: If married, list spouse's name (include any former names used), occupation, employer's name and business address(es).

Married to Karen Gail Adelstein, formerly Karen Brenner, homemaker

 Education: List each college and graduate or professional school you have attended, including dates of attendance, degrees received, and dates degrees were granted.

Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, 1986 - 1987

Stanford University, 1985 - 1986, M.A., History, 1986

Stanford University, 1982 - 1985, B.A., Political Science, with Distinction, 1985

Lewis and Clark College, 1980 - 1982

5. <u>Employment and Self-Employment Record</u>: List (by year) all business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions and organizations, nonprofit or otherwise, including farms or ranches, with which you were connected as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college; include a title and brief job description.

2002-present, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission

1995 - 2002: Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Legislative Assistant

1989 – 1995: Chairman David Pryor, Senate Special Committee on Aging, Professional Staff Member, also served as special liaison to Senator Harry Reid

1987 - 1989 Senator Donald W. Riegle, Jr., Legislative Assistant

1987 Senator Richard C. Shelby, Intern

1987 Harvard College, Department of History, Teaching Fellow

1986 Stanford Graduate School of Business, Communications Consultant

1985 - 1986 Stanford University, Department of History, Teaching Assistant

 Military Service: Have you had any military service? If so, give particulars, including the dates, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number and type of discharge received.

No.

 <u>Government Service</u>: State (chronologically) your government service or public offices you have held, including the terms of service grade levels and whether such positions were elected or appointed.

All appointive office:

Intern, Senator Richard Shelby, 1987

Legislative Assitant, Senator Donald W. Riegle, Jr., 1987-1989

Professional Staff Member, Senate Special Committee on Aging, 1989-1995

Aging Committee liaison to Senator Harry Reid, 1991-1995

Legislative Assistant, Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle, 1995-2002

Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission, 2002-present (nominated and confirmed twice by the U.S. Senate)

 Honors and Awards: List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, and honorary society memberships that you received and believe would be of interest to the Committee.

Graduated with Distinction (highest honor awarded), Stanford University

Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society

Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society

Outstanding Leadership Award, National Association for Music Therapy, 1991

U.S. Senate Service Award, 1999

Director's Choice Award, Alliance for Community Media, 2003

Certificate of Appreciation, Comenius Foundation, 2003

Newsmaker of the Year, Radio Daily News, 2004

The Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras, Public Service Award, 2005

Cable's Leader in Learning Award, 2006

Spirit of Innovation Award, Telecommunications Industry Association, 2007

American Spirit Award, The Caucus for Television Producers, Writers, and Directors, 2007

Government Beacon Award, National Association of Latinos in Information Sciences & Technology, 2007

Tikkun Olam Award, Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding, Sacred Heart University, 2007

Outstanding Public Leadership Award, Common Sense Media, 2009

 Other Memberships: If not covered above, list all organizations in which during the past 10 years you held a position as official, board member, or other leadership position and describe the position. Exclude religious organizations.

A member of the National Academy of Social Insurance since 1993.

10. <u>Published Writings</u>: List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, or other published materials (including published speeches) you have written. Please include on this list published materials on which you are listed as the principal editor. It would be helpful to the Committee if you could provide one copy of all published material that may not be readily available. Also, to the maximum extent practicable, please supply a copy of all unpublished speeches you made during the past five years on <u>issues involving</u> agriculture, nutrition, forestry or any other matters within the jurisdiction of this Committee and the Department of Agriculture.

Link to all speeches 2003 – 2009: http://www.fcc.gov/commissioners/adelstein/speeches2008.html

12/2/08: "It Is Not Too Late To Get It Right" Government Video Technology Expo.

10/16/08: Vanderbilt Forum on Pediatric Obesity: Developing Unique Partnerships to Halt the Epidemic.

9/22/08: One Web Day - 3rd Celebration, New America Foundation.

9/18/08: "A View On Today's Most Pressing Wireless Issues", The Fifth Annual Conference on Spectrum Management Law Seminars International.

6/11/08 "Stuck In The Mud: Time To Move An Agenda To Protect America's Children" Media Institute.

6/10/08: Pointsmart.Clicksafe. Summit on Children's Online Safety and Literacy.

6/8/08: National Conference for Media Reform.

1/31/08: DTV Consumer Education Workshop Focusing on Rural Areas and Tribal Lands.

11/29/07: Center For Christian-Jewish Understanding Awards Ceremony.

10/12/07: Rainbow PUSH Coalition And Education Fund, Media and Telecommunications Symposium.

10/02/07: PCIA Wireless Infrastructure Show.

7/19/07: E9-1-1 Institute Round Table Forum.

6/13/07: "National Priorities for Broadband Wireless" Wireless Communications Association.

3/5/07: Freedom to Connect 2007.

11/28/06: Remarks to the ISCe Satellite Investment Symposium (ISIS).

8/20/06: The Future of Children's Media: Advertising, Children NOW.

8/20/06: Keynote Address to the Progress and Freedom Foundation's 12th Aspen Summit.

7/19/06: Blacks in Government Ceremony Honoring Dr. Benjamin Hooks, Federal Communications Commission.

6/27/06: Wireless Communications Association.

5/16/06: National Spectrum Managers Association Spectrum Management 2006.

3/15/06: "I Want My DTV: Building a National DTV Consumer Education Campaign", CEA Entertainment Technology Policy Summit; National DTV Consumer Education.

3/7/06: "Learning from History: Looking Back to Look Forward", National Emergency Number Association, 9-1-1 Goes to Washington Critical Issues Forum. 1/30/06: FCC's Independent Panel on Hurricane Katrina.

10/20/05: "Broadband Wireless Internet - A Technology Briefing" 3G Americas.

6/20/05: Global Regulatory Summit on SDR and Cognitive Radio SDR Forum.

5/25/05: "Fresh is Not as Fresh as Frozen:" A Response to the Commercialization of American Media, The Media Institute.

5/14/05: National Conference for Media Reform.

4/22/05: Universal Service Policy, The Center for the New West.

3/21/05:WISPs: Providing Opportunities for Rural America through Access to Broadband, WISPCON VII.

1/31/05: Association of Public Television Stations and National Cable & Telecommunications Association Joint Press Conference National Press Club.

11/15/04: APCO International and Project LOCATE, Wireless Deployment Challenges and Realities Symposium.

6/9/04: Children NOW Digital TV Conference.

5/25/04: Wireless Internet Service Provider Forum, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

4/20/04: Remarks before the Public Interest, Public Airwaves Press Conference.

3/22/04: "Rural Telecommunications – Big Challenges and Bigger Opportunities", 2004 NTCA Legislative & Policy Conference.

3/18/04: Solutions Summit: 911/E911 Issues Associated with Internet-based Communications Services.

2/22/04: "Preserving the Public Interest in a Dynamic Telecommunications Industry", 2004 National Governors Association Winter Meeting.

1/19/04: "Securing Rural Telecommunications in a Changing World" OPASTCO's 41st Annual Winter Convention.

12/4/03: "Accessing the Public Interest: Keeping America Well-Connected", 21st Annual Institute on Telecommunications Policy & Regulation.

12/1/03: FCC Forum on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).

11/5/03: Remarks before the FCBA.

11/4/03: Rural Wireless ISP Showcase and Workshop.

7/22/03: "The Impact of Media Ownership Rules on Minority Broadcasting", Minority Media & Telecommunications Council.

5/20/03: "Big Macs and Big Media: The Decision to Supersize" The Media Institute.

5/19/03: Remarks at Workshop on Cognitive Radio Technologies.

4/26/03: "Citizen Kane for the 21st Century? The Defining Moment for Media Ownership", Northern California Hearing on FCC Media Ownership Rules.

4/9/03: "New Frontiers in Wireless Policy: A Framework for Innovation"

Silicon Flatirons Telecommunications Program.

3/5/03: "Meeting the Challenges of Rural Telecommunications" OPASTCO.

2/25/03: National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

2/3/03: "Rural America and the Promise of Tomorrow", NTCA Annual Meeting and Expo.

1/6/03: "The Last DJ?: Finding A Voice On Media Ownership", The Future of Music Coalition Policy Summit 2003.

Publications:

Foreword to: <u>Communications, From Hieroglyphs to Hyperlinks</u>, by Richard Platt, Kingfisher 2004.

"Disabled Yet Denied: Bureaucratic Injustice in the Disability Determination System" Journal of Disability Policy Studies, Volume 1, No. 4, Winter 1990, pages 57 -80.

## FINANCIAL DATA AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST (PUBLIC)

 Have you severed all connections with your immediate past private sector employers, business firms, associations, and/or organizations?

Yes.

 List sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock options, uncompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients, or customers.

None.

 Do you, or does any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, own or operate a farm or ranch? (If yes, please give a brief description including location, size and type of operation.)

No.

4. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, ever participated in federal commodity income and price support programs? (If yes, provide all details including amounts of government payments and loans received or forfeited by crop and farm, et cetera during the past five years.)

No.

5. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, ever received a loan or cosigned a note involving a loan from or guaranteed by any current or previously existing agency of the Department of Agriculture, including through any of the farm or rural development lending programs? (If yes, please state the current status and details of such loans, whether they have been fully repaid, and all details of any such loan activity.)

No.

6. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, received payments for crop losses from the federal crop insurance program in the past 5 years? (If yes, give details.)

No.

Have you ever received a government guaranteed student loan? If so, has it been repaid?

No.

8. If confirmed, do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment or engage in any business or vocation, with or without compensation, during your service with the government? (If so, explain.)

No.

 Do you have any plans to resume employment, affiliation, or practice with your previous employers, business firms, associations, or organizations after completing government service? (If yes, give details.)

No.

10. Has anyone made a commitment to employ you or retain your services in any capacity after you leave government service? (If yes, please specify.)

No.

11. Describe all matters and all employers, clients, organizations, or interests you represented over the past five years before the Department of Agriculture or any of its agencies, or before Congress involving matters within the jurisdiction of this Committee or the Department of Agriculture.

None.

12. If confirmed, explain how you will resolve any actual or potential conflicts of interest, including any that may be disclosed by your responses to the above items. In particular, identify all investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which involve actual or potential conflicts of interest relative to the position for which you have been nominated and what actions you will take to resolve these actual or potential conflicts of interest if confirmed.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Department of Agriculture's designated agency ethics official to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Department's designated agency ethics official.

13. Describe and explain all divestitures or arrangements, of any nature with respect to any type of interest, which you have made or will make to resolve actual or

potential conflicts of interest should you be confirmed to the position for which you are nominated.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Department of Agriculture's designated agency ethics official to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Department's designated agency ethics official.



United States
 Office of Government Ethics
 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Suite 500
 Washington, DC 20005-3917

April 28, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin Chairman Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry United States Senate Washington, DC 20510-6000

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Jonathan Adelstein, who has been nominated by President Obama for the position of Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture.

We have reviewed the report and have also obtained advice from the agency concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is an ethics agreement outlining the actions that the nominee will undertake to avoid conflicts of interest. Unless a date for compliance is indicated in the ethics agreement, the nominee must fully comply within three months of confirmation with any action specified in the ethics agreement.

Based thereon, we believe that this nominee is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

Robert I. Cusick Director

Enclosures

OGE - 106 August 1992 April 24, 2009

Mr. Raymond J Sheehan Designated Agency Ethics Official U.S. Department of Agriculture Washington, DC 20250-0122

Dear Mr. Sheehan:

The purpose of this letter is to explain the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) The steps detailed below take into account any potential conflicts or appearances thereof associated with this position.

As required by 18 U S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that has a direct and predictable effect on my financial interests or those of any other person whose interests are imputed to me, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to section 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to section 208(b)(2). I further understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me: any spouse or minor child of mine, any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner; any entity in which I serve as officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee; and any person or entity with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

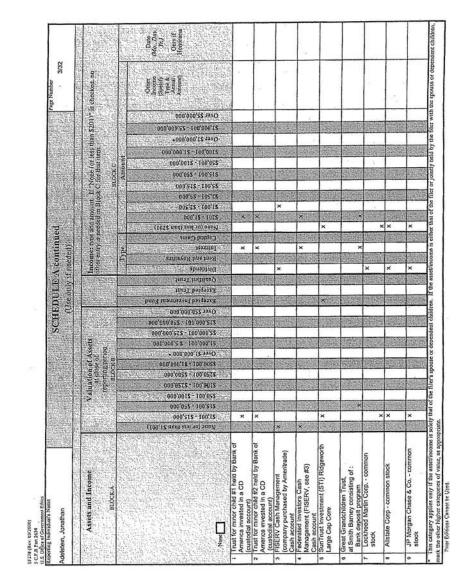
Finally, I understand that as an appointee I am required to sign the Ethics Pledge (Exec Order No. 13490) and that I will be bound by the requirements and restrictions therein in addition to the commitments I have made in this and any other ethics agreement.

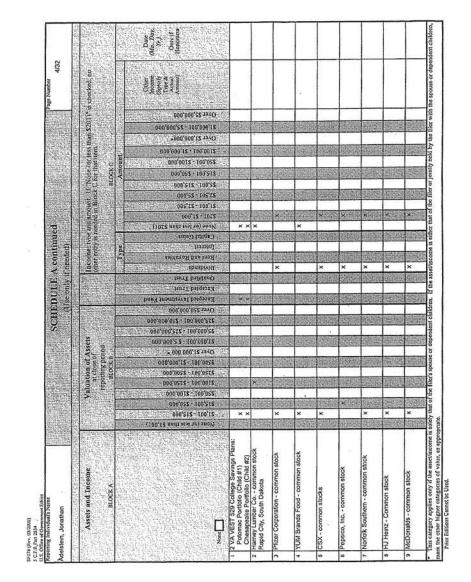
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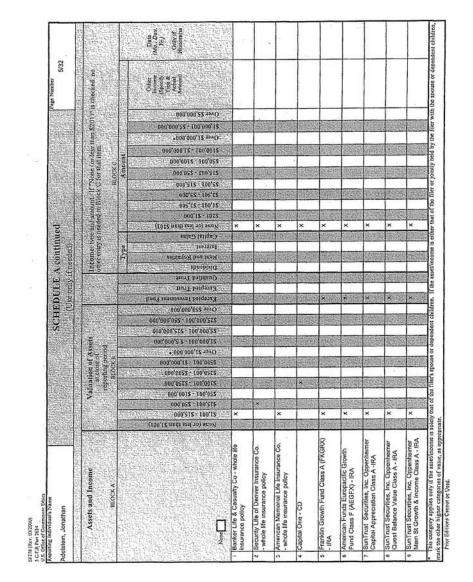
Ionathan S. Adelstein

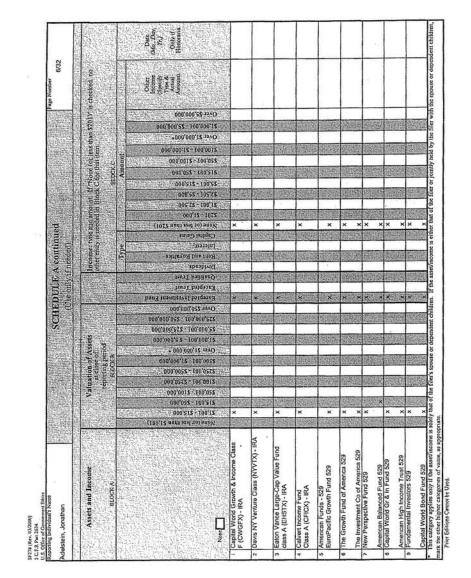
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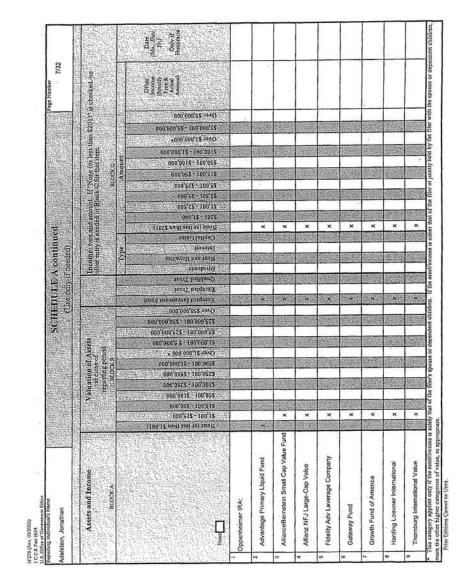
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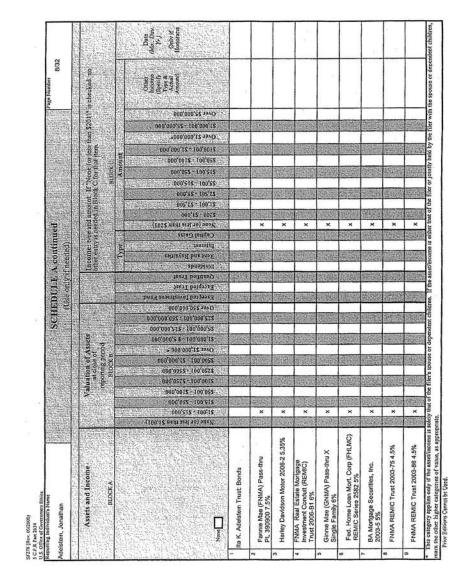


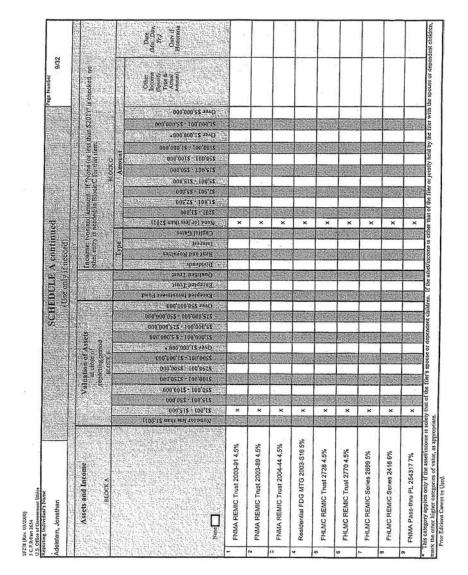


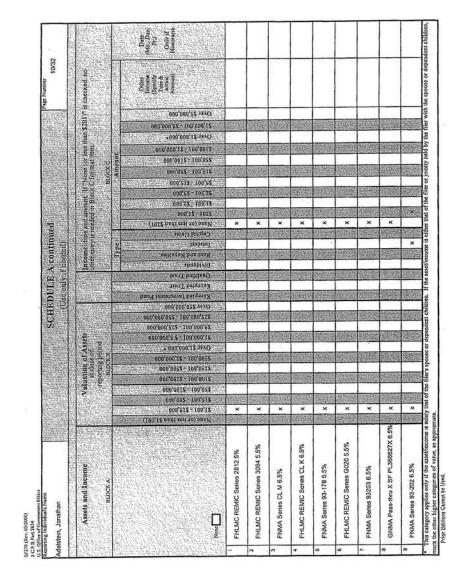


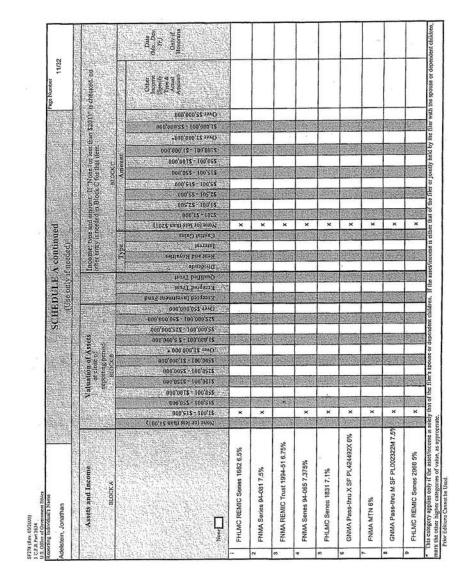


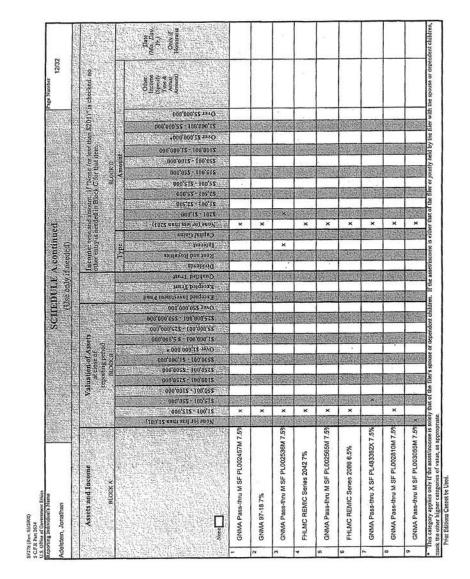


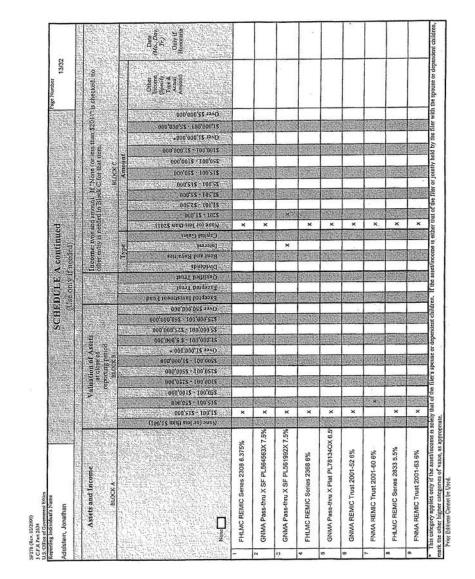


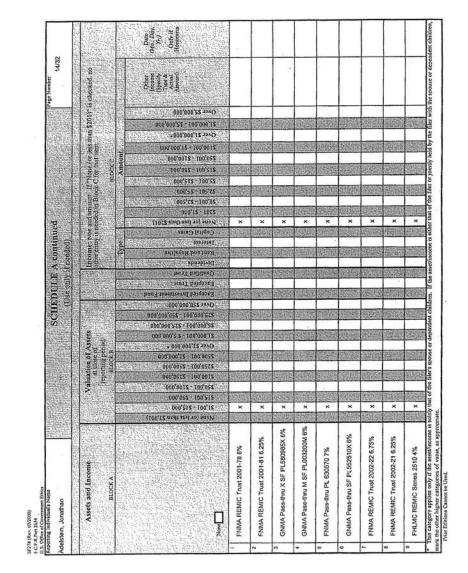


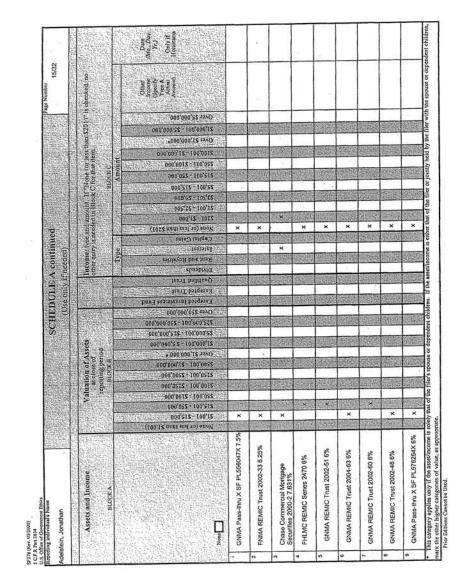


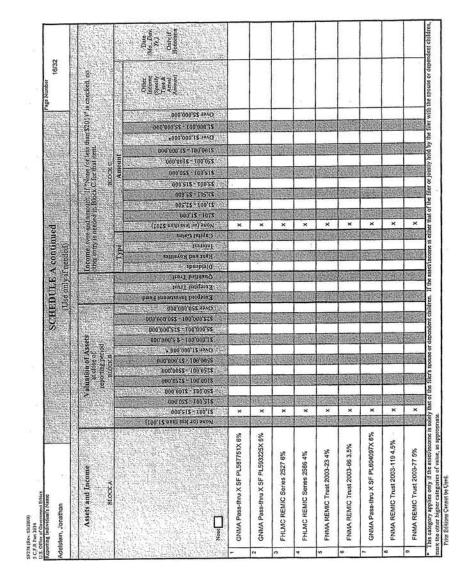


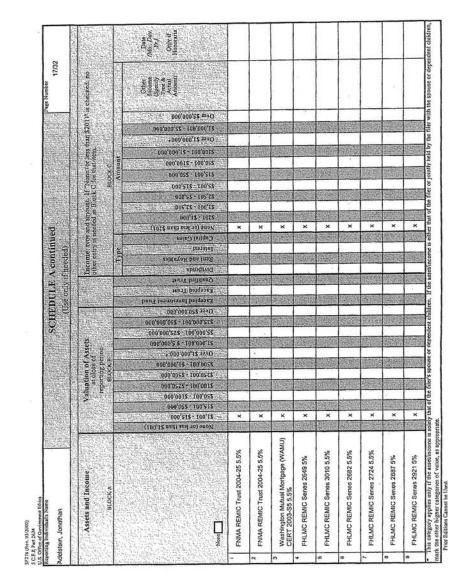


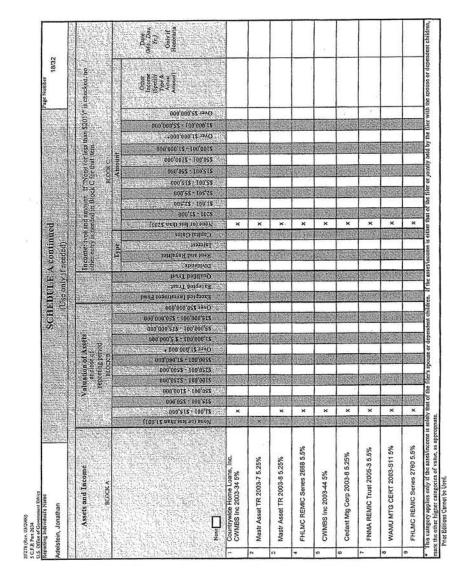


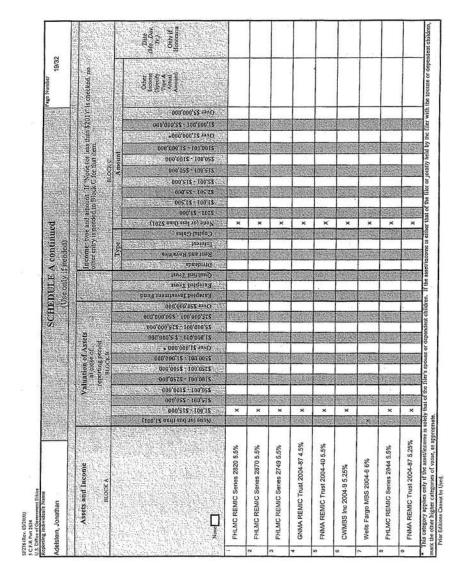


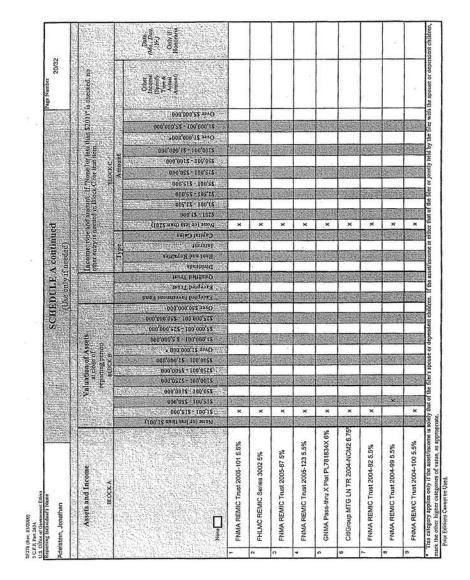


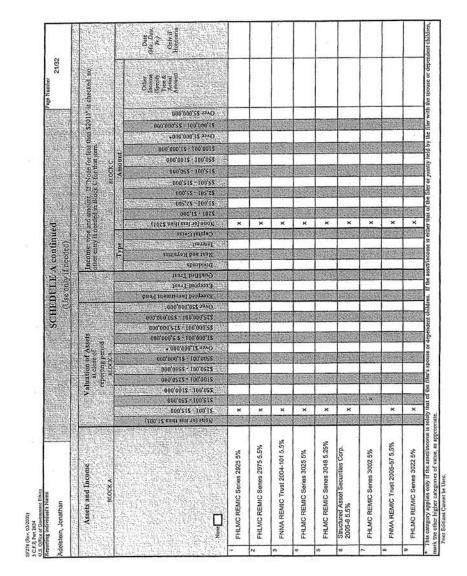


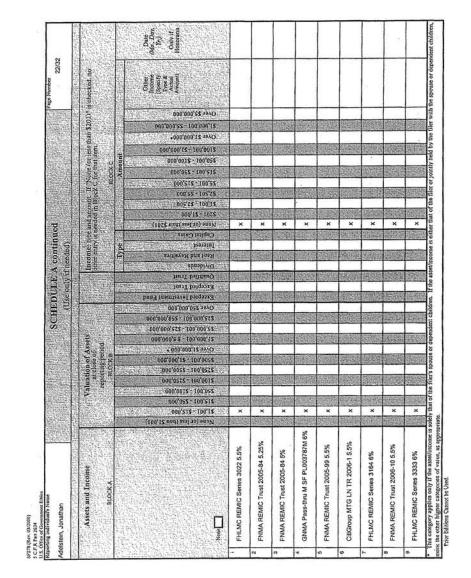


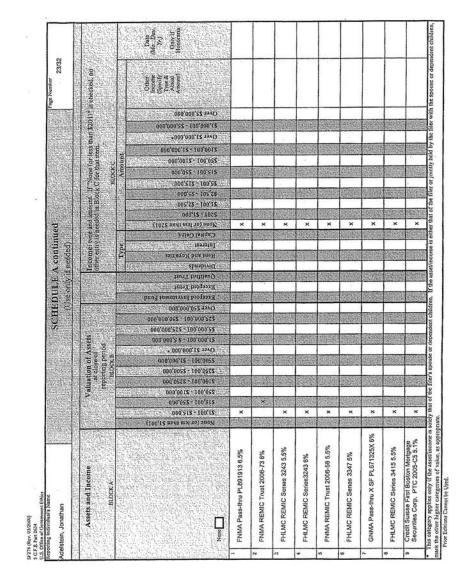


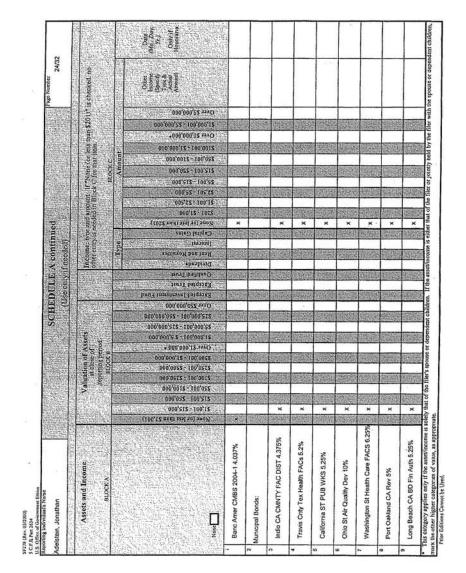


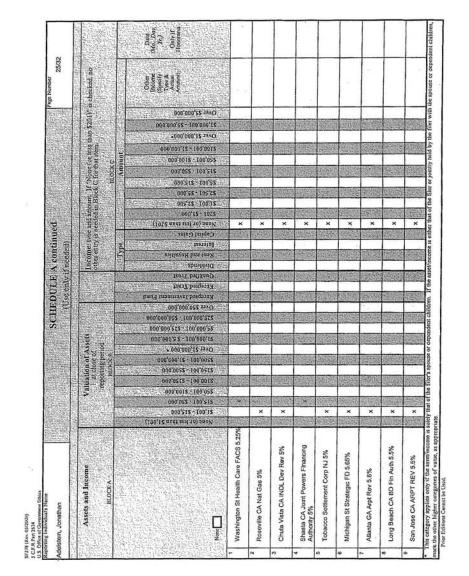


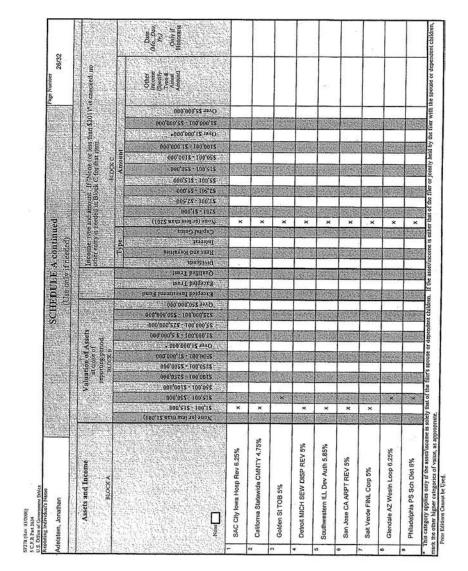


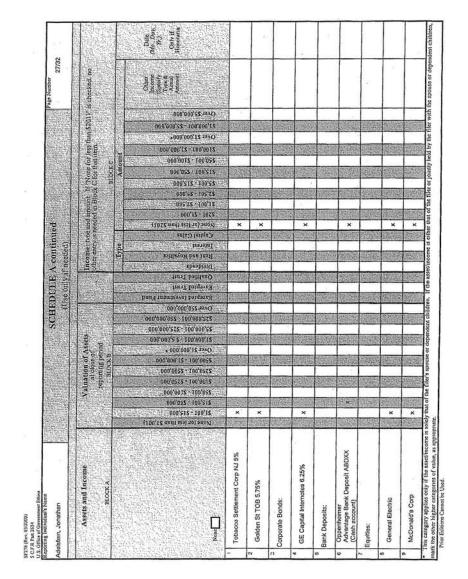


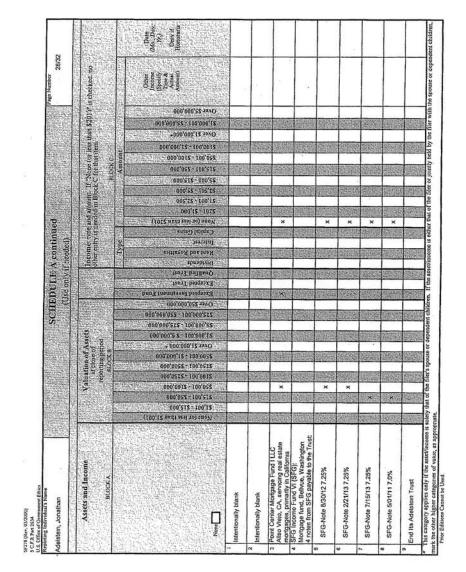


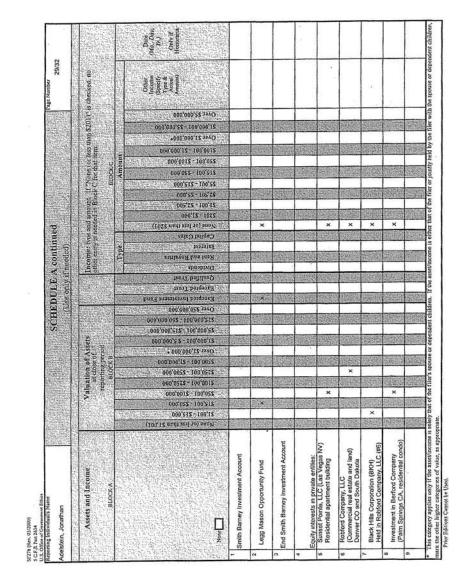












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## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION (PUBLIC)**

1. Full name (include any former names used).

## Kevin William Concannon

2. Date and place of birth.

### December 17, 1940 Portland, Maine

 <u>Marital Status:</u> If married, list spouse's name (include any former names used), occupation, employer's name and business address(es).

Married: Mary Eileen Concannon (nee Mackasey), Professional Nurse, Caretaker Educator – Retired

 <u>Education</u>: List each college and graduate or professional school you have attended, including dates of attendance, degrees received, and dates degrees were granted.

Saint Francis Xavier University: 1959 – 1964: Bachelor of Arts 1964, Antigonish, Nova Scotia

Maritime School of Social Work/Saint Francis Xavier University (joint degree): 1964 – 1966: Master of Social Work 1966, Halifax, Nova Scotia

University of Southern Maine - single courses 1964, 1970, 1974, Portland, Maine

University of Connecticut – Graduate School of Social Work – single courses 1975, West Hartford, Connecticut

University of North Carolina – Public Health Leadership Institute 2002, Durham, North Carolina

5. <u>Employment and Self-Employment Record</u>: List (by year) all business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions and organizations, nonprofit or otherwise, including farms or ranches, with which you were connected as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college; include a title and brief job description.

Dr. William F. Roberts Hospital – School, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada: 1966 – 1968, Psychiatric Social Worker

Diocesan Catholic Charities, Waterville and Portland, Maine: 1968 – 1975, Regional & Associate Diocesan Director; NGO health and human service

#### programs

Executive Department, State of Maine, State Children & Youth Planning Project, Augusta, Maine: 1975 – 1977, Federally Funded (LEAA) Major Study/Proposals of Maine's Children's Service – Program Coordinator

Bureau Chief, Bureau of Mental Retardation, Maine Department of Mental Health and Corrections, Augusta, Maine: 1977 – 1980, Provided leadership and oversight of state systems of care for children and adults with developmental disabilities

Commissioner, Maine Department of Mental Health and Corrections – and reorganized Maine Department of Mental Health and Retardation, Augusta, Maine: 1980 – 1987, Was the CEO responsible for state institutions, programs, policies and planning for the gamut of behavioral health services in Maine

Director, Oregon Department of Human Resources, Salem, Oregon: 1987 – 1995, Was the CEO responsible for full gamut of state health, human services, community action, and food assistance programs, including WIC, public health, child care, Medicaid, child welfare, employment and unemployment assistance, juvenile corrections, emergency assistance, behavioral health, rehabilitation, and AFDC

Commissioner, Maine Department of Human Services, Augusta, Maine: 1995 – 2003, Was the CEO responsible for state programs including Medicaid, Food Stamps, public health, WIC, child care, child support, child welfare, adult protective services, long term care, senior feeding programs, emergency assistance, social services, residential care,

Director, Iowa Department of Human Services, Des Moines, Iowa: 2003 – 2008, CEO responsible for health and human services programs for Iowa including Medicaid, TANF, Food Stamps, commodities, child care, child support, SCHIP, mental health, long term care, mental retardation, state institutions, juvenile corrections

Adjunct Professor of Social Work, University of Iowa School of Social Work: July 1,2008 through present. Taught one semester course

Advisory Board Member, Goold Health Systems (GHS), Maine: December 2008 to present. Goold Health Systems is a small privately held Maine company which does contractual work for state governments in eight states principally in the pharmacy service arena for Medicaid programs. GHS also does long term care assessments under state contract and operates pharmacy-related call centers for several states.

National Organizations Roles

1984 – 1988: National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, Alexandria, Virginia, Trustee, President (1987 – 1988)

1990 – 2008: American Public Welfare Association/American Public Human Services Association, Washington, DC, Trustee, President (1991 – 1992)

 <u>Military Service</u>: Have you had any military service? If so, give particulars, including the dates, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number and type of discharge received.

I have never served in the military.

 <u>Government Service</u>: State (chronologically) your government service or public offices you have held, including the terms of service grade levels and whether such positions were elected or appointed.

No prior federal service.

Executive Department, State of Maine, Coordinator of State of Maine Children and Youth Services Planning Project, 1975 – 1977, Appointed

Director, Maine Bureau of Mental Retardation, Department of Mental Health and Corrections, Augusta, Maine, 1977 – 1980, Appointed

Commissioner, Maine Department of Mental Health and Corrections, Augusta, Maine, 1980 – 1982; Commissioner, Maine Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, 1982 – 1987, Appointed

Director, Oregon Department of Human Resources, Salem, Oregon, 1987 – 1995, Appointed

Commissioner, Maine Department of Human Services, Augusta, Maine, 1995 – 2003, Appointed

Director, Iowa Department of Human Services, Des Moines, Iowa, 2003 – 2008, Appointed

 Honors and Awards: List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, and honorary society memberships that you received and believe would be of interest to the Committee.

Canadian Graduate Mental Health Traineeship (Graduate School) 1964 – 1966, New Brunswick Department of Health

Emmett Engstrom National Leadership Award – Developmental Disabilities Services 1981, Washington, DC

National Association of State Mental Health Directors Leadership Award 1988, Alexandria, Virginia

American Public Human Services Association, Lifetime Achievement Award 2007, Washington, DC

 Other Memberships: If not covered above, list all organizations in which during the past 10 years you held a position as official, board member, or other leadership position and describe the position. Exclude religious organizations.

American Public Human Services Association (1987 – 2008), State agency member

Milbank Memorial Fund/Reforming States Group, 1994 – 2008, Co-chair (2007 – 2008), Voluntary association of state legislators and executive branch health leaders

University of Iowa, 2005 – 2009, Graduate School of Social Work, Adjunct Professor

Centerboard Yacht Club – member, former trustee, 1982 – present, Commodore (2003)

10. <u>Published Writings</u>: List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, or other published materials (including published speeches) you have written. Please include on this list published materials on which you are listed as the principal editor. It would be helpful to the Committee if you could provide one copy of all published material that may not be readily available. Also, to the maximum extent practicable, please supply a copy of all unpublished speeches you made during the past five years on <u>issues</u> involving agriculture, nutrition, forestry or any other matters within the jurisdiction of this Committee and the Department of Agriculture.

## Attached.

Celebrate Medicaid 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, in Policy & Practice, American Public Welfare Association (March 2005).

Supporting Child Health Insurance Expansion, Reforming States Group, Milbank Memorial Fund (2008).

In my position as the Director of the Iowa Department of Human Services, I had occasion to make several unpublished speeches on matters within the jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and the Department of Agriculture. As I based these speeches on topic outlines, I do not have the full text of these presentations available. I have, however, contacted my former employer and they have provided me with all available outlines for the speeches I made as Director. These outlines are appended to this questionnaire.

## FINANCIAL DATA AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST (PUBLIC)

 Have you severed all connections with your immediate past private sector employers, business firms, associations, and/or organizations?

Yes, except as provided in the ethics agreement I have entered into with the U.S. Department of Agriculture ethics official, and which has been provided to this committee.

Current Advisory Board Member – Goold Health Systems, Augusta, Maine, 2009, Will sever relationship upon confirmation.

University of Iowa School of Social Work – will sever relationship upon confirmation

 List sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock options, uncompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients, or customers.

## State of Maine Hartford Deferred Compensation Plan, \$124,820 State of Iowa ING Deferred Compensation Plan, \$122,159

 Do you, or does any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, own or operate a farm or ranch? (If yes, please give a brief description including location, size and type of operation.)

No

4. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, ever participated in federal commodity income and price support programs? (If yes, provide all details including amounts of government payments and loans received or forfeited by crop and farm, et cetera during the past five years.)

No

5. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, ever received a loan or cosigned a note involving a loan from or guaranteed by any current or previously existing agency of the Department of Agriculture, including through any of the farm or rural development lending programs? (If yes, please state the current status and details of such loans, whether they have been fully repaid, and all details of any such loan activity.)

No

6. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest.

received payments for crop losses from the federal crop insurance program in the past 5 years? (If yes, give details.)

#### No

 Have you ever received a government guaranteed student loan? If so, has it been repaid?

## Yes, Maine Savings Bank. Fully repaid.

8. If confirmed, do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment or engage in any business or vocation, with or without compensation, during your service with the government? (If so, explain.)

No

 Do you have any plans to resume employment, affiliation, or practice with your previous employers, business firms, associations, or organizations after completing government service? (If yes, give details.)

No

 Has anyone made a commitment to employ you or retain your services in any capacity after you leave government service? (If yes, please specify.)

## No

11. Describe all matters and all employers, clients, organizations, or interests you represented over the past five years before the Department of Agriculture or any of its agencies, or before Congress involving matters within the jurisdiction of this Committee or the Department of Agriculture.

As Director of the Iowa Department of Human Services I was responsible for operation and oversight of the Iowa Food Stamp Program (SNAP), Child Care Feeding Program, and Commodity Program all of which are USDA programs. Also, Iowa DHS implemented Emergency Food Assistance through the Food Stamp Program in responding to the severe weather and flooding emergencies of 2008.

12. If confirmed, explain how you will resolve any actual or potential conflicts of interest, including any that may be disclosed by your responses to the above items. In particular, identify all investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which involve actual or potential conflicts of interest relative to the position for which you have been nominated and what actions you will take to resolve these actual or potential conflicts of interest if confirmed.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Department of Agriculture's designated agency ethics official to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Department's designated agency ethics official and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

13. Describe and explain all divestitures or arrangements, of any nature with respect to any type of interest, which you have made or will make to resolve actual or potential conflicts of interest should you be confirmed to the position for which you are nominated.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Department of Agriculture's designated agency ethics official to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Department's designated agency ethics official and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.



May 5, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin Chairman Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry United States Senate Washington, DC 20510-6000

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Kevin W. Concannon, who has been nominated by President Obama for the position of Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture.

We have reviewed the report and have also obtained advice from the agency concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is an ethics agreement outlining the actions that the nominee will undertake to avoid conflicts of interest. Unless a date for compliance is indicated in the ethics agreement, the nominee must fully comply within three months of confirmation with any action specified in the ethics agreement.

Based thereon, we believe that this nominee is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely, Nobert & Cich Robert I. Cusick

Director

Enclosures

OGE - 106 August 1992 April 30, 2009

Mr Raymond J. Sheehan Designated Agency Ethics Official U S Department of Agriculture Washington, DC 20250-0122

Dear Mr Sheehan:

The purpose of this letter is to explain the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) The steps detailed below take into account any potential conflicts or appearances thereof associated with this position.

As required by 18 U S C § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that has a direct and predictable effect on my financial interests or those of any other person whose interests are imputed to me, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to section 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to section 208(b)(2) I further understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me: any spouse or minor child of mine, any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner; any entity in which I serve as officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee; and any person or entity with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment

On July 31, 2008, I retired from my position as the Director of the Iowa Department of Human Services For one year after my retirement, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which the Iowa Department of Human Services is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635 502(d)

Also on July 31, 2008, I resigned from my position as the Co-Chair of the Reforming States Group, an organization sponsored by the Milbank Memorial Fund For one year after my resignation, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which either the Milbank Memorial Fund or the Reforming States Group is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C F R. § 2635.502(d).

On December 2-3, 2008, I provided consulting services to Policy Studies, Inc, a government outsourcing firm, for which I was compensated I have done no additional work for this corporation since December 2008 Accordingly, for one year following the-termination of my relationship with Policy Studies, Inc., I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which Policy Solutions, Inc, is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C F R § 2635 502(d).

I will continue to participate in defined benefit pension plans for the States of Maine, Oregon and Iowa, and therefore, pursuant to 18 U S C § 208, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that will have a direct and predictable effect on the ability or willingness of these States to provide these contractual benefits, unless I first obtain a written waiver or qualify for a regulatory exemption.

Upon confirmation I will resign from my position as Adjunct Professor of Social Work at the University of Iowa I have not taught a course at the University since 2006 Accordingly, for one year following my resignation, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which the University of Iowa is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C F R § 2635 502(d).

Also upon confirmation I will resign from my position on the Goold Health Systems Advisory Board. Pursuant to 5 C F R § 2635 502, for a period of one year after my termination from this position, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which this organization is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C F R § 2635.502(d)

Finally, I understand that as an appointee I am required to sign the Ethics Pledge (Exec Order No 13490) and that I will be bound by the requirements and restrictions therein in addition to the commitments I have made in this and any other ethics agreement

Sincerely,

Kein W Concomm Kevin W Concannon

Fermination Date (15 Aouli Executive Branch Personnel PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT Protomen -I Telentonia No. Therese Ared Code) 4/30/2009 5/5/09 Date Month Day Years Ditte (Month, Dere. Year) 5/5/08 Tate Committee (202) 720-7711 Kevn W. Débitiment oc Xeenock (Extinticable) USDA × × or Confidence cricy Philics Official/Reviewing Official Inc. (co. (Check box if filing ex 1400 independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20250 Under Secretary for Food, Nutr. & Consumer Svcs Addreverstander: Street. Clib. State and Part Cost. Collection of Shur Kein W Concorrect Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry [http://poblicats]and Date(s) Heldaturetof Reporting Individual ature of Uther Keviewer Π the of Position Concannon N Version Acres aist Name ---Arthe of Con None CUTPY interconstant in the constant in the con Office of Government Bthics ordende that the file is fill applicable laws and jot to any contributs nents of Revietwing Officials III or don(s) Hedd with the Pedeta: antinent During the Processing forthe (if Not Same as Above) porting Individual's Name ces Subject to ttion of Present Office. ition for Which Filing Other Review. (If desired by agency) ev Ethics Official's Opin SF278 (Rev. 03/2000) 5 C.F.R Part 2634 Diffee of Ge

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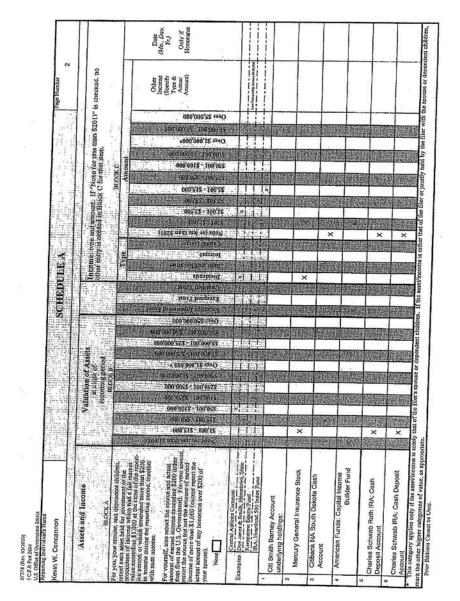
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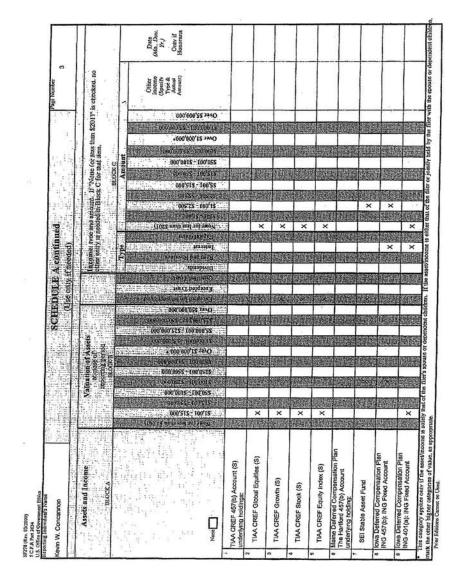
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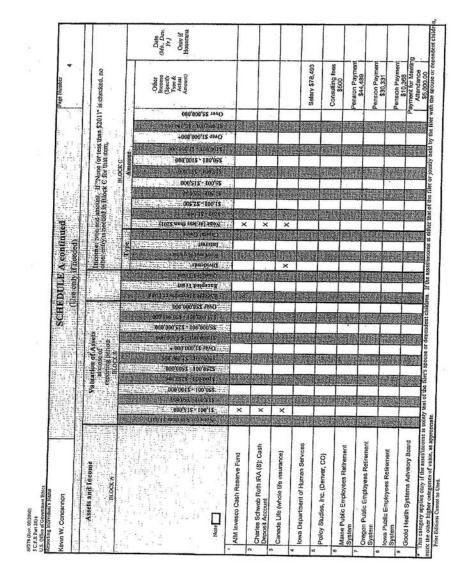
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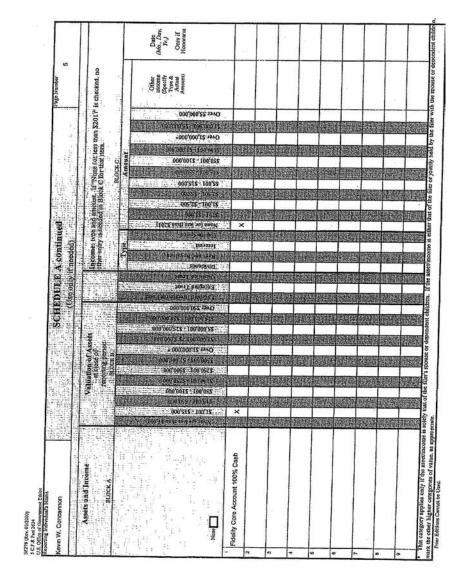
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# **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION (PUBLIC)**

- 1. Full name (include any former names used). - Evan Jay Segal
- 2. Date and place of birth. - April 30, 1960; Pittsburgh, PA
- <u>Marital Status:</u> If married, list spouse's name (include any former names used), occupation, employer's name and business address(es).
   Tracy Phipps Segal; Maiden Name – Tracy Ellen Phipps; Homemaker
- Education: List each college and graduate or professional school you have attended, including dates of attendance, degrees received, and dates degrees were granted.
  - Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 9/81-5/83; M.S. Industrial Administration (MBA) 1983;
  - Carnegie Mellon University, 1/80-5/81; B.S. Administration & Management Science 1982;
  - -Kenyon College, Gambier, OH, 9/78-12/79 (transferred to CMU)
- 5. <u>Employment and Self-Employment Record</u>: List (by year) all business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions and organizations, nonprofit or otherwise, including farms or ranches, with which you were connected as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college; include a title and brief job description.

Organization	Title	Job Description	Year
Scott Paper Company	Financial & Strategic Planning Analyst; Marketing Manager	Work with Corp VP and Business Unit to develop strategic plans, analyze information to support decision making	8/1983-2/1987
Dormont Manufacturing Company	President/Owner	Full range of activities required to lead and manage a high growth manufacturing business	2/1987-8/2006
Dormont Realty Partners (DRP)	General Partner	Manage assets (building & land) leased to Dormont Mfg Co.	1/1993-Present
Kenai Development	General Partner	General Partner of DRP	1/1993-Present
Buckeye Tartan LLC	Partner	Investor in real estate investment entity	1/1995-Present
Segai Ventures LP	General Partner	Investment company	10/2007-Present
Ariel Tess LLC	General Partner	General partner for Segal Ventures LP	10/2007-Present

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Phipps Holdings LLC	General Partner	Owns townhouse in Washington, DC	8/2008-Present
Anasazi Too LLC	General Partner	Owns 3 undeveloped lots in Flagstaff, AZ	1/07-Present
Aerie 4 LLC	Partner	Owns 1 undeveloped lot in Sedona, AZ	5/06-Present
Majestic Presidio LLC	General Partner	Owns 12 undeveloped lots in Flagstaff, AZ	10/08-Present
United Jewish Federation Pittsburgh	Trustee	Non-Profit	11/06-5/09
Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life	Director	Non-Profit	1/07-5/09
Community Day School	Director	Non-Profit School	1/07-5/09
Jewish Healthcare Foundation	Director	Non-Profit	11/07-5/09
Florence Melton Communiteen High School	Chairman	Non-Profit	10/07-5/09
Jewish Funders Network	Director	Non-Profit	2/08-11/08
Jewish Major Leaguers	Director	Non-Profit	11/06-12/08
Evan & Tracy Segal Family Foundation	Chairman	Non-Profit	1/06-Present
National Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)	Director	Non-Profit	9/05-9/06
Young Presidents Organization (YPO)	Member	Non-Profit	9/93-6/09

- Military Service: Have you had any military service? If so, give particulars, including the dates, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number and type of discharge received.
   No
- <u>Government Service</u>: State (chronologically) your government service or public offices you have held, including the terms of service grade levels and whether such positions were elected or appointed.
   No
- <u>Honors and Awards</u>: List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, and honorary society memberships that you received and believe would be of interest to the Committee.
   N/A
- Other Memberships: If not covered above, list all organizations in which during the past 10 years you held a position as official, board member, or other leadership position and describe the position. Exclude religious organizations.
   Pittsburgh Jewish Community Center
  - 1. <u>Published Writings</u>: List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, or other published materials (including published speeches) you have written. Please

include on this list published materials on which you are listed as the principal editor. It would be helpful to the Committee if you could provide one copy of all published material that may not be readily available. Also, to the maximum extent practicable, please supply a copy of all unpublished speeches you made during the past five years on <u>issues</u> involving agriculture, nutrition, forestry or any other matters within the jurisdiction of this Committee and the Department of Agriculture.

- A. <u>The Dormont Case</u>; Power Point Presentation; Trans Atlantic Business Dialogue (TABD); November 6-7, 1998.
- B. <u>International Trade Barriers</u> Written Statement; United States Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration; April 2001.

## FINANCIAL DATA AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST (PUBLIC)

1. Have you severed all connections with your immediate past private sector employers, business firms, associations, and/or organizations?

> Yes, except as provided in the ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Department's designated agency ethics official and that has been provided to this Committee.

 List sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock options, uncompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients, or customers.

- None.

 Do you, or does any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, own or operate a farm or ranch? (If yes, please give a brief description including location, size and type of operation.)

- No.

4. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, ever participated in federal commodity income and price support programs? (If yes, provide all details including amounts of government payments and loans received or forfeited by crop and farm, et cetera during the past five years.)

- No.

5. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, ever received a loan or cosigned a note involving a loan from or guaranteed by any current or previously existing agency of the Department of Agriculture, including through any of the farm or rural development lending programs? (If yes, please state the current status and details of such loans, whether they have been fully repaid, and all details of any such loan activity.)

- No.

6. Have you, or any partnership or closely held corporation in which you have an interest, received payments for crop losses from the federal crop insurance program in the past 5 years? (If yes, give details.)

- No.

 Have you ever received a government guaranteed student loan? If so, has it been repaid? 8. If confirmed, do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment or engage in any business or vocation, with or without compensation, during your service with the government? (If so, explain.)

- No.

- No.

 Do you have any plans to resume employment, affiliation, or practice with your previous employers, business firms, associations, or organizations after completing government service? (If yes, give details.)

- No.

10. Has anyone made a commitment to employ you or retain your services in any capacity after you leave government service? (If yes, please specify.)

- No.

11. Describe all matters and all employers, clients, organizations, or interests you represented over the past five years before the Department of Agriculture or any of its agencies, or before Congress involving matters within the jurisdiction of this Committee or the Department of Agriculture.

- None.

12. If confirmed, explain how you will resolve any actual or potential conflicts of interest, including any that may be disclosed by your responses to the above items. In particular, identify all investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which involve actual or potential conflicts of interest relative to the position for which you have been nominated and what actions you will take to resolve these actual or potential conflicts of interest if confirmed.

- In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Department of Agriculture's designated agency ethics official to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Department's designated agency ethics official and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

13. Describe and explain all divestitures or arrangements, of any nature with respect to any type of interest, which you have made or will make to resolve actual or potential conflicts of interest should you be confirmed to the position for which you are nominated.

- In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Department of Agriculture's designated agency ethics official to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Department's designated agency ethics official and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest. United States Office of Government Ethics 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Suite 500 Washington, DC 20005-3917

June 11, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin Chairman Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, And Forestry United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Evan J. Segal, who has been nominated by President Obama for the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture.

We have reviewed the report and have also obtained advice from the agency concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is an ethics agreement outlining the actions that the nominee will undertake to avoid conflicts of interest. Unless a date for compliance is indicated in the ethics agreement, the nominee must fully comply within three months of confirmation with any action specified in the ethics agreement.

Based thereon, we believe that this nominee is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely, · Le

Robert I. Cusick Director

Enclosures

OGE - 106 August 1992 June 2, 2009

Mr. Raymond J. Sheehan Designated Agency Ethics Official U.S. Department of Agriculture Washington, DC 20250-0122

Dear Mr Sheehan:

The purpose of this letter is to explain the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The steps detailed below take into account any potential conflicts or appearances thereof associated with this position

As required by 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that has a direct and predictable effect on my financial interests or those of any other person whose interests are imputed to me, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to section 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to section 208(b)(2). I further understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me: any spouse or minor child of mine, any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner; any entity in which I serve as officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee; and any person or entity with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

On November 1, 2008, I resigned my position Director of the Jewish Funders Network On December 1, 2008, I resigned my position as Director of Jewish Major Leaguers On May 7, 2009, I resigned from the following positions:

- Trustee, United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh;
- Chairman, Florence Melton Communiteen High School, Pittsburgh, PA;
- Director, Hillel: Foundation for Jewish Campus Life;
- Director, Jewish Healthcare Foundation;
- Director, Community Day School, Pittsburgh, PA; and
- Executive-in-Residence, Tepper Graduate School of Business, Carnegie-Mellon University.

Upon confirmation, I will resign from the following positions:

- Managing Member, Kenai Development Company;
- Managing Member, ArielTess, LLC;

- General Partner Majestic Presidio, LLC; and
- General Partner Anasazi Too, LLC.

For a period of one year after my resignation from each of these entities, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which that entity is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F R § 2635 502(d)

In order to avoid potential conflicts of interest under section 208, I will divest my interests in the following entities within 90 days of my confirmation:

- Goldman Sachs, IACS (US Large Cap) LLC Class 2;
- Goldman Sachs Mount Kellett Capital Partners Access Fund, LP;
- Goldman Sachs West Street Portfolios, LLC 2007; and
- Double Eagle Capital Ace Fund LP, Series A.

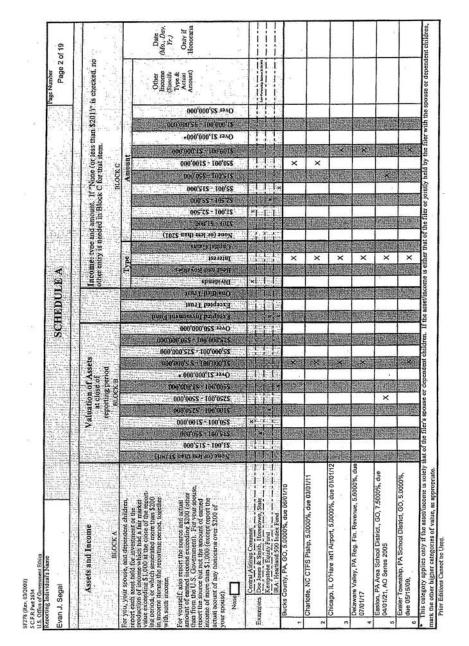
With regard to each of these entities, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest, if the particular matter has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of the entity or its underlying assets, until I have divested it, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1),or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2),

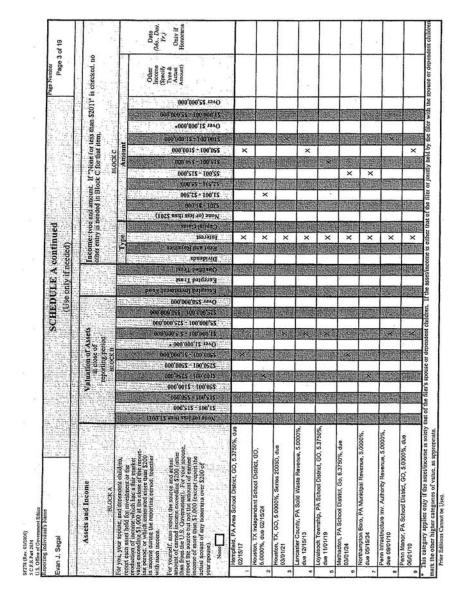
I will request a written waiver under 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1) regarding my financial interest in the Eksportfinans ASA Principal Protected Note. Until I have obtained such a waiver, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of the entities tracked by this asset.

Finally, I understand that as an appointee I am required to sign the Ethics Pledge (Exec. Order No. 13490) and that I will be bound by the requirements and restrictions therein in addition to the commitments I have made in this and any other ethics agreement

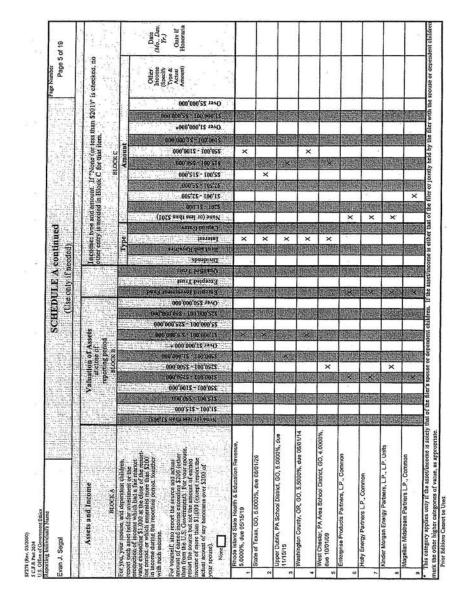
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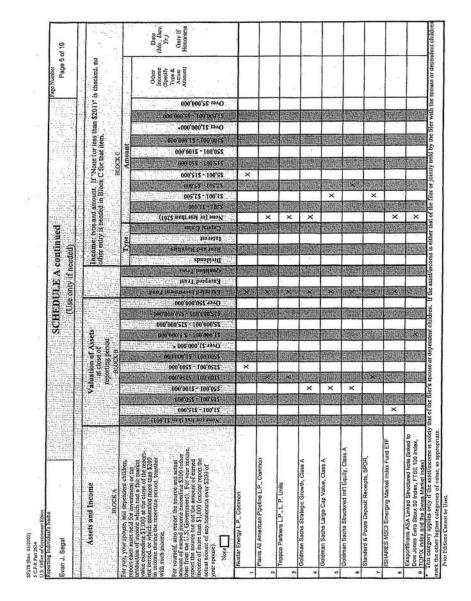
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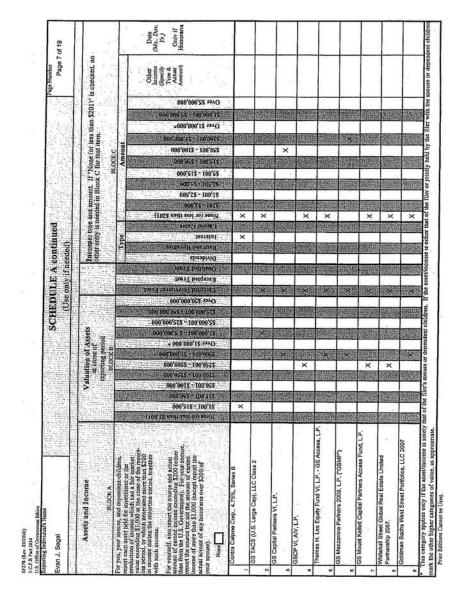


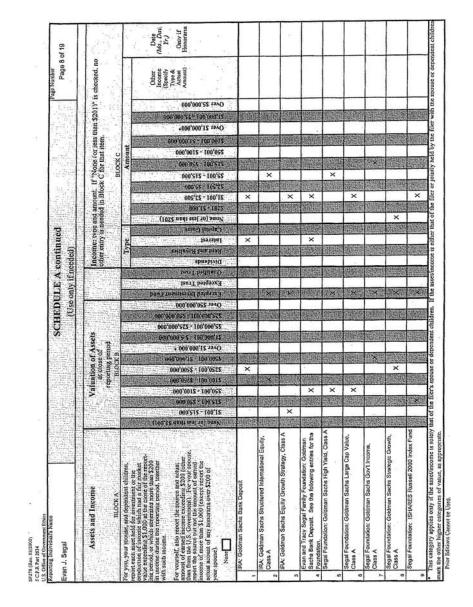


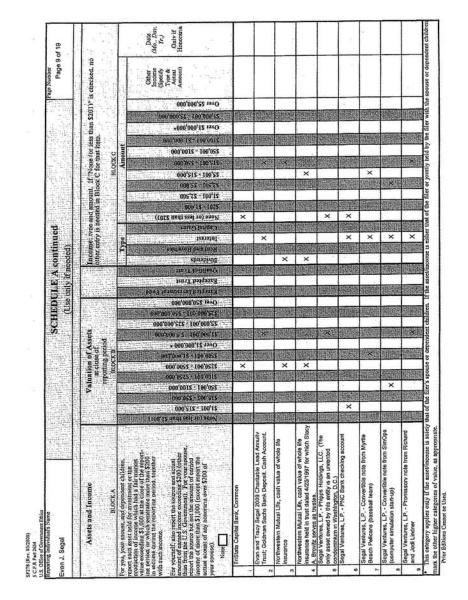
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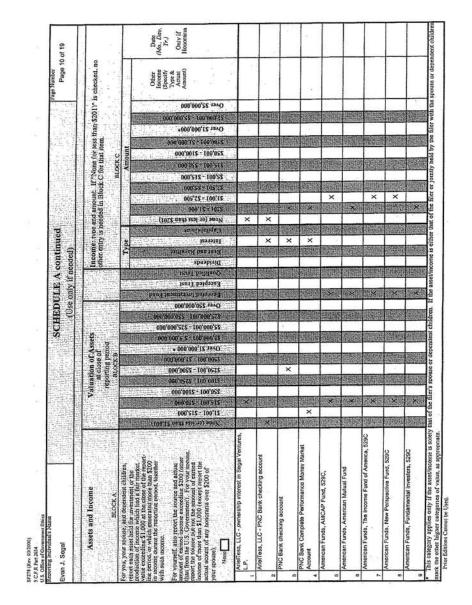


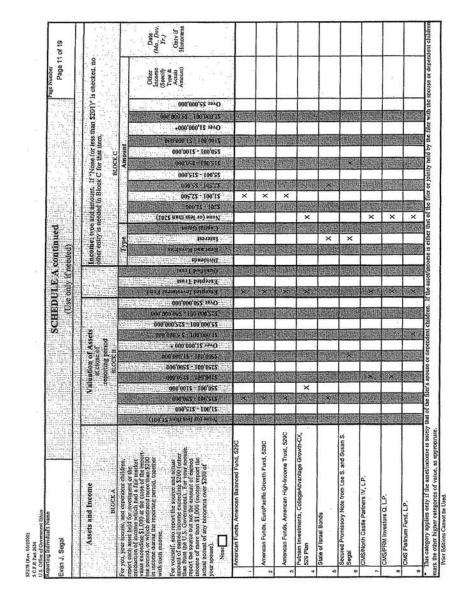


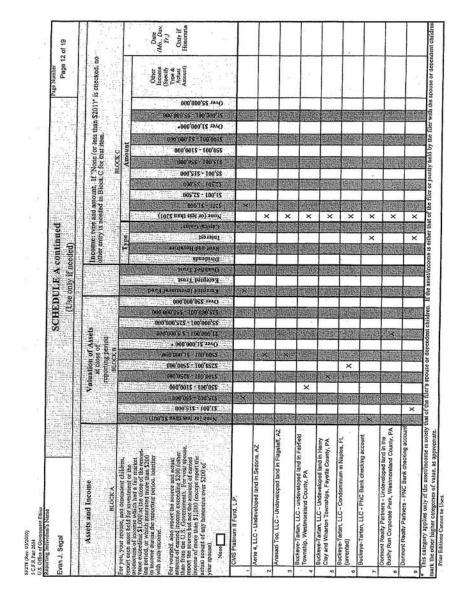


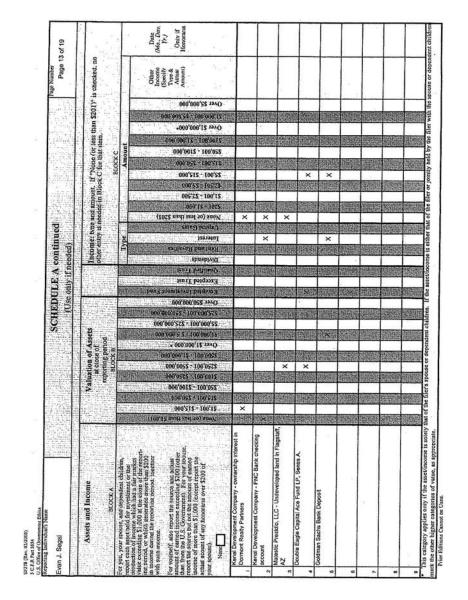












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## April 6, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin

Chairman U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry Washington, DC 20510

### Dear Chairman Harkin:

On behalf of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), a network of regional partners that serve small communities across the nation, I am writing to offer our support for the nomination of Jonathan Adelstein to be Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service.

The RCAP network provides technical assistance and training to small, rural water and wastewater systems throughout the U.S. and its territories. We help communities maintain compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act regulations; protect public health and the environment; develop, operate, and maintain sustainable systems; and build local leadership and management capacity.

The Rural Utilities Service provides critical funding to water and wastewater, electric, and telecommunications systems throughout rural America. During his tenure on the Federal Communications Commission, Mr. Adelstein has demonstrated a strong understanding of issues that affect rural areas and a commitment to implementing solutions to address them. This dedication was developed earlier in his career on Capitol Hill, where he worked to address a broad range of issues impacting rural residents. Because of this experience, we believe Mr. Adelstein is an excellent choice to head the Rural Utilities Service.

We look forward to working with you, your colleagues in Congress, and Mr. Adelstein to further advance rural development by ensuring clean and safe water in all our communities.

lun Robert Stewart

Executive Director



1522 K Street, NW · Suite 400 · Washington, DC 20005 · 202.408.1273 · fax 202.408.8165 · www.rcap.org

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

July 7, 2009

## Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry Nomination Hearing Questions for the Record Mr. Jonathan Adelstein July 7, 2009

## Senator Bob Casey, Jr.

1) One of the hot topics in rural Pennsylvania right now is access to the broadband funding including in the economic recovery act. It is my understanding that Rural Utilities Services will be accepting applications for those funds split over 3 rounds starting this month. One of the questions I have is how you think we can ensure that rural areas in the Northeast that happen to be relatively close to a major population area can be appropriately covered?

Response: If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and your constituents on this important issue. I would note that the Vice President, Secretary Vilsack and others recently announced the competitive process for accessing Recovery Act broadband funding in a rural community (Wattsburg, PA) adjacent to a larger population center (Erie, PA). It's my highest priority to expand broadband deployment. It's important that the program function for highly remote areas that are unserved, as well as non-remote communities that lack access to service.

#### Senator Amy Klobuchar

1) In your testimony, you stated that one of our key national priorities should be to aggressively promote the expansion of broadband deployment and adoption. I completely agree with you. In 2000, the U.S. ranked fourth among 30 nations surveyed in broadband subscribership, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Today, the U.S. is 15th on that list. According to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the U.S. is now perched at 24th in the world in broadband penetration. Canada has a higher level of broadband penetration and digital opportunity than we do. If confirmed, what actions would you recommend to restore the U.S.'s place in broadband deployment and adoption?

Response: The issue of broadband access and expansion is one that I am uniquely qualified and positioned to address. If confirmed, I would work hard on the implementation of the Recovery Act funding that has been enacted into law. I believe these provisions provide the United States an unparalleled opportunity to better equip our country and reestablish a competitive edge among developed nations. Past history has shown that the United States Department of Agriculture and specifically the Rural Development mission area of the Department has led the way for the nation in providing more complete coverage of electrification, telecommunications, and other utilities. I also believe that there are tremendous gains that can be made through further leveraging and outreaching to other pre-

## existing public and private sector sources. If confirmed, I look forward to working with these prospective partners and becoming part of this important national effort.

2) You will be coming to the Rural Utilities Service at a critical juncture. During the past Administration, the RUS's broadband programs were widely criticized for unnecessary delay in application processing and overly burdensome paper work required from applicants. Last year, as part of the 2008 Farm Bill, we mandated various reforms of the broadband programs to address some of these concerns. In June, the USDA's Inspector General, Phyllis Fong, testified before the House raising concerns with the direction of the broadband program. If confirmed, how would you go about addressing these concerns and ensuring that the programs are transparent and effective?

Response: If approved for this position, one of the first actions that I would take as Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service will be to review the provisions of the Inspector General's Report with all of the appropriate and knowledgeable staff at the Department. I would like to take full stock of the actions that have been initiated by the agency since the report was published. I also want to gain an understanding of which recommendations have not been acted upon yet so that I can lay out a clear roadmap and expectations on where the agency needs to be going forward. It will be a major priority for me, if confirmed, to ensure that our business processes are sound and that the customers are getting the most efficient and timely service possible.

3) In Vice President Biden's announcement last week, he indicated that USDA and NITA will be hosting public workshops this month to share information about the funding availabilities and application process for the Recovery Act broadband loan and grant programs. I was particularly pleased to see that the agencies are visiting Minneapolis as one of the nine cities they selected for the forums. From my role on the Commerce Committee, I know that you were heavily involved in your role as FCC Commissioner in outreach in terms of ensuring that Americans were prepared for the digital television transition. In terms of these broadband forums, what would be your advice, based on your DTV transition experience, to the agencies in terms of maximizing the effectiveness of these outreach events?

Response: It is my desire and aspiration to become a confirmed member of the USDA team and help contribute to the outreach and public information activities. Without question, ensuring diverse participation and thorough outreach to all interested parties will be vital to ensuring the value of this effort. I also believe it is important to foster an open and transparent atmosphere where the public is fully included and encouraged to provide open and honest feedback. This has become a hallmark of the Obama Administration and one that I will further, if confirmed.

4) After visiting 22 of Minnesota's counties over this past November and December to gather ideas and support for the economic recovery package, I convened a Broadband Roundtable in my state on December 29. I heard first-hand from people about the importance of making sure they have access to fast and affordable broadband. Some of the broadband success stories in Minnesota are a result of public-private partnerships. Based on your experience, do you believe there is a role for public-private partnerships in deploying broadband, particularly in rural areas?

Response: I not only believe that there is a role for public-private partnerships in deploying broadband, but I believe that the ultimate long-term success of telecommunications access rests with the public/private partnerships that we develop and maintain. I am interested in learning more about the experiences and feedback that you have received from your constituents. If confirmed, I would like to have the opportunity to visit with you and your staff and gain additional insight from the 22 counties that you described.

5) Every Minnesotan knows that we have only two seasons in our state – winter and road construction. Nobody likes the orange cones and detour signs, or the traffic delays that go with them. It's even more aggravating when the same road gets torn up again just a year or two later to install communications lines. That's why, last month, I introduced the Broadband Conduit Deployment Act, which requires states to install broadband conduit as part of any federally-funded transportation project. In other words, we should only have to "dig once." This simultaneous installation of underground broadband conduits as part of federally funded transportation projects will save taxpayer dollars over the long-term because the Federal Highway Administration estimates that as much as 90 percent of the cost of deploying broadband conduit is for digging up and repairing the road. In this economy, I believe it is more important than ever to make sure that we are leveraging all existing federal resources and programs as efficiently and effectively as we can toward common goals. If confirmed, what steps would you take to further enhance the Rural Utilities Service's ability to leverage its existing resources?

Response: I believe it is of paramount importance that we have the appropriate amount of dialogue and collaboration across agency lines and with other federal agencies and entities outside of the Department of Agriculture. If confirmed, I commit to expand and enhance our Department's coordination within the federal family on rural utility issues. I believe there is great interest in collaborating and leveraging our resources to improve our efficiency and effectiveness. I think that sometimes it is simply an issue of not knowing what other mission areas are doing or what projects other Departments are about to initiate. More open lines of communication can go a long way toward making improvements in this area.

#### Senator Pat Roberts

1) The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$350 million to assist states in developing and maintaining broadband inventory maps. How will RUS verify and ensure the accuracy of these maps? Further, although some states have mapping programs already underway, others do not. How can RUS expeditiously target Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) funds to unserved households in states where broadband mapping is nascent or non-existent?

Response: I believe it's critically important that we implement the Recovery Act broadband resources as transparently as possible. That means establishing clear program requirements and funding the best projects according to the scoring criteria. Though the Department of Commerce was given responsibility for administering the mapping component of the Recovery Act broadband funding, I plan to coordinate with the Department of Commerce to ensure that their knowledge and maps can help shape funding decisions to the extent possible. If confirmed, I will also work with our rural utility experts at the Department of Agriculture to gain an understanding of the conventions typically used as well as the verification and oversight mechanics of these types of loan and grant programs.

2) The application review for BIP funds is scored based on a number of criteria. For instance, under Project Purpose, it states that for every 10,000 unserved households that will receive broadband one point will be awarded, up to a maximum of five points. Thus, to receive the full five points a provider would have to reach 50,000 unserved households. Simultaneously, under Project Benefits, it states that five points will be awarded to applications that would allow more than one provider to serve end users. Does this scoring criterion put unserved rural households at a disadvantage? Can broadband providers in sparsely populated rural areas with smaller service territories reasonably be expected to reach 50,000 unserved households? What is the probability that, given this scoring criteria, more applications will propose using BIP funds in areas that already have service? How would you suggest RUS resolve the inherent contradiction between serving the highest proportion of rural residents that lack access to broadband and giving end users a choice of providers?

Response: I have not been part of the proposal request process thus far, as I am not yet part of the Department's team in broadband implementation. Certainly, the Recovery Act provided clear direction in providing a unique and historic opportunity to provide broadband to rural areas that otherwise would not have the resources, or would not compete well under traditional efforts. If confirmed, I look forward to reviewing the process that is currently in place and reviewing real-life scenarios of how communities score and compete under the proposed system.

3) Lastly, it has been over a year since Congress passed the Farm Bill, which included a number of important reforms for RUS' underlying broadband loan program. When will the regulations to implement these changes be available?

Response: Since I am not yet a member of the USDA team, I am not yet in a position to respond to your question. If confirmed, I commit to following up with you and your staff on status of these regulations that you raise in your question.

## Senator John Thune

 As you know firsthand, the demand for base load electricity generation is growing in rural areas. These projects not only provide base load energy generation, but they provide good paying jobs in rural communities as well. In your opinion, what role should RUS play in financing base load energy generation projects such as coal, nuclear, natural gas, or coal with carbon capture and sequestration? Response: I think we need to consider all of the options that are available. In addition to the aspects covered by your question, we also have a tremendous amount of investments in practices and research funded through the Energy Title of the Farm Bill, such a biomass research and development and the use of anaerobic digesters, and wind generation. It is possible to better integrate all of these rural and on-farm initiatives with our overall electrification strategy within the Rural Utilities Service. If confirmed, I look forward to working with our team at USDA to develop a better strategic framework to bring these parts together.

2) With regards to the broadband funding in the stimulus bill, the RUS just released the Notice of Funding Availability, which requires recipients to adhere to a nondiscrimination principle with an exception for "reasonable network management." How would you define "reasonable network management?"

Response: Since I am not yet on board at the Department, it would be inappropriate for me to define a regulatory term that is part of an existing Notice of Funding Availability. I will say that I think it is important to adhere to a policy of non-discrimination in implementing the law. Past history shows a clear divide in the provision of these services to varying sectors of consumers. As a matter of principle, the threshold for network management considerations needs to be set at an appropriate level to ensure that it truly is utilized in exceptional cases.

3) The downturn in the U.S. economy has impacted broadband deployment and infrastructure enhancements. If the Congress or the Administration increases the regulatory requirements imposed on broadband providers such as non-discrimination or net neutrality requirements, what impact do you think that have on broadband deployment in rural areas?

Response: I believe the Recovery Act provides a very unique chance for areas that would not otherwise have broadband to gain access. Rural areas and poor areas in particular are most often the ones that are not one the map for broadband consideration. Given the current economic circumstances, we have a chance to help improve local economic conditions. We also have an opportunity to give some areas and communities that otherwise would be overlooked a chance to prepare and become positioned for the next generation of technology and the next phase of U.S. economic growth.

4) I understand that the notice of funds availability, which RUS and NTIA released last week, grants are available in rural, remote areas that are over 90% unserved. Has RUS done any studies to determine how many rural, remote, and 90% unserved areas exist today? How will RUS determine if a certain area (census block) is 90% unserved?

Response: I have not been part of the proposal request process thus far, as I am not yet part of the Department's team in broadband implementation. Certainly, the Recovery Act provided clear direction in providing a unique and historic opportunity to provide broadband into rural areas that otherwise would not have the resources, or would not compete well under traditional efforts. If confirmed, I look forward to reviewing the process that is currently in place and reviewing real-life scenarios of how communities score and compete under the proposed system.

5) Facilities, such as wireless towers may cover a mix of areas including rural and non-rural, remote and non-remote, and unserved and underserved. How should the RUS deal with applications from these providers? Will they have to file separate applications for each census block or market they serve?

Response: Since I am not yet a member of the USDA team, I am not yet in a position to respond to your question. If confirmed, I commit to following up with you and your staff on status of these regulations that you raise in your question.

6) I understand that the notice of funds availability, which RUS and NTIA released last week, grants are only available in rural, remote areas that are over 90% unserved. Otherwise, if the market is rural, but non-remote and simply "underserved" these applicants are not eligible for grants, but must apply for loans or loan/grant combinations. At the same time, if the applicant is looking to serve any non-rural market, whether unserved or underserved, that applicant can go to NTIA and get grant money. Do you believe this sets the bar too high for rural areas relative to non-rural areas?

Response: Again, I have not been part of the proposal request process thus far, as I am not yet part of the Department's team in broadband implementation. Certainly, the Recovery Act provided clear direction in providing a unique and historic opportunity to provide broadband into rural areas that otherwise would not have the resources, or would not compete well under traditional efforts. If confirmed, I look forward to reviewing the process that is currently in place and reviewing real-life scenarios of how communities score and compete under the proposed system.

## Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry Nomination Hearing Questions for the Record Mr. Kevin Concannon July 7, 2009

#### Senator Saxby Chambliss

Administering federal nutrition programs requires diligence to ensure that federal
resources are used to provide the best nutrition at the best price. Recent reports indicate
planning is underway at the Department to promote the consumption of organic
agriculture products throughout the various mission areas at USDA. I applaud this effort
and would note that purchasing organic products is already an existing option for
individuals that participate in federal programs as well as the various institutions that
operate them. However, setting specific quotas or mandates for the purchase or use of
any food product based on how or where it is grown could have an adverse impact on the
effectiveness of federal resources in the fight against hunger. Could you please share
with the Committee your thoughts on this issue?

Response: I understand that USDA is currently developing a Departmental strategy to enhance support for local and regional food systems, and I fully expect the Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) mission area to be a major part of this strategy. FNCS has been very active in promoting farm to school activities and, if confirmed, I expect to provide leadership in this area.

2) Do the current rules governing federal nutrition assistance programs unnecessarily impede public-private partnerships, and if so, will you work to enable USDA cooperation with the private sector in the interest of fulfilling the ambitious pledge of ending childhood hunger by 2015?

Response: If confirmed I intend to reach out to other sectors of USDA and our sister federal agencies to identify and seek to mitigate any regulatory barriers that impede the participation of the private sector in the Administration's goal to end childhood hunger by 2015. From my state level experience, I know that some of our most effective initiatives cut across organizational and governmental boundaries and limitations. I will bring that same philosophy to the job of Under Secretary if confirmed.

#### Senator Debbie Stabenow

 You may know of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program from your work in state government as this program exists in Iowa, Maine, and Oregon. It is also a very important program for Michigan.

In the budget for USDA, I was surprised that there is only a request for an additional \$3 million for CSFP. However, there are now six additional states approved but not funded to begin CSFP, and there is also a growing need among the senior community for additional allocations. How did USDA determine that \$3 million would be sufficient? Would you be willing to work with us in finding additional resources if this amount is found to be too low?

Response: I was not on board when the budget was developed and am not fully aware of all of the considerations that took place in the formulation of the request numbers.

I will take a look at CSFP in the context of all our nutrition assistance programs, and consider whether additional funding for the program is the best use of limited budget resources.

2) Under the Clinton Administration, USDA had considered a regulation giving states flexibility in raising their eligibility requirements up to 185% of the federal poverty level for CSFP. But that regulation was not finalized.

If a state could provide for more people without sacrificing quality or needing additional resources, would you support such a regulatory change?

# Response: As in regard to funding, I will take a look at CSFP in the context of all our food assistance programs, and consider whether expanded eligibility for the program is the best use of limited resources.

3) Senator Lugar and I have introduced legislation to increase participation for afterschool meals, which is important for many working families in my state who need more flexible afterschool programs because of working longer or unusual shifts. Unfortunately, Michigan has very low participation in this program in part because schools can only receive reimbursement if they participate in CACFP, the Child/Adult Care Food Program. For my schools, this means going through additional state and federal red tape. Since schools may already be getting reimbursed under the Russell School Lunch and Breakfast Program, is there anything that could be done administratively to let schools just get reimbursed through the Russell Program instead of CACFP?

Response: I believe the upcoming reauthorization is an important opportunity to consider improvements to all of the child nutrition programs, including the Child and Adult Care Food Program. If confirmed, I will also discuss with staff any administrative remedies that might help in Michigan and elsewhere to address your concerns and ensure increased participation in our child nutrition programs.

- 4) I am very interested in the national expansion of the fruit and vegetable snack program. Can you give us an update on how schools are responding to the program?
  - I am also concerned that the funding for the snack program is based on the federal fiscal year, not the school year. That means that schools get a small sum up front and then a

larger sum after October 1. Wouldn't it be easier for schools to plan if the funding followed the school year?

Response: It is my understanding that the Fruit and Vegetable Program is being implemented nationwide now and that it is very popular wherever it has been introduced. In regard to funding on a fiscal year basis, I am advised that there were some unique challenges during the past fiscal year due to money being available from separate funding sources. With nationwide implementation and ongoing operations, those issues should subside.

5) I am very interested in hearing the progress of the new WIC packet, which includes more fruits and vegetables and more sensitive to the cultural and dietary needs of the diverse population that WIC serves. Can you give us an update on the new packet? Additionally, I have been concerned that some vegetables have been excluded from the interim WIC rule. Have there been any complaints from WIC participants?

Response: In order to fully respond to this question, I would like to do a briefing with you and your staff, if confirmed, and incorporate appropriate agency staff in that meeting. There is a great deal of feedback that can be provided on the issue that you raise.

## Senator Bob Casey, Jr.

 As I mentioned during our meeting last month, I am interested in building on the paperless school meals application system used by the School District of Philadelphia. Would you be willing to take a look at legislation that I've introduced with Senator Brown and Senator Bennet and make recommendations on the best ways to create a national paperless application program?

Response: I am aware of the legislation that you, Senator Bennet and Senator Brown have sponsored and I am committed to developing alternatives which improve access for low income families and, if confirmed, will work closely with you, the Committee and officials from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and School District of Philadelphia (SDOP) to ensure a seamless transition to any new alternatives which may be authorized. As Secretary Vilsack wrote in his letter to you on June 17, I too am hopeful that the upcoming Child Nutrition Reauthorization will provide a path forward for SDOP to be incorporated into a nationwide system of alternatives to current program procedures that benefit schoolchildren in Philadelphia and across the country and look forward to working with you on this important issue.

#### Senator Amy Klobuchar

 If confirmed, what changes would you make to help improve the nutrition of the school lunch and breakfast program?

Response: If confirmed, I would focus on three key goals on the issue that you raise:

- Support the President's goal of ending childhood hunger by 2015 by increasing access to the Federal nutrition programs, testing strategies to better reach hungry children, and improving our understanding of the causes and consequences of childhood hunger.
- Reduce childhood obesity and improve the diets of children through improvements in the nutrition quality of foods and beverages served in school, strategies to encourage children's consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy products, and strong wellness and physical activity policies
- Raising program performance to better serve our children. All government programs rely on public confidence in their efficiency and integrity. We can improve both through investments in technology, through improved business processes that promote program integrity and reduce errors, and through stronger enforcement tools to resolve management problems.
- 2) If confirmed, what steps would you take to help encourage schools to continue to provide healthy meals, while taking into account the increased costs that is often associated with healthier foods?

Response: One program that I am enthusiastic about working more closely with, if confirmed, is the Team Nutrition's Healthier US School Challenge (HUSSC) is an initiative that recognizes schools for taking a leadership role in improving the school nutrition environment, providing opportunities for nutrition education and physical activity, and demonstrating healthy food policies and practices.

I would also like to take further steps to ensure that the school meal patterns reflect the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and that schools have the resources and knowledge they need to provide children with the healthiest meals and nutrition environments possible.

If confirmed, I intend to make further improvements in school meals a priority.

3) If confirmed, what efforts would you make to improve the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)?

Response: As stated earlier, the Child Nutrition Programs, including the Child and Adult Care Food Program, are key components of the nutrition safety net for America's children. If confirmed, I would focus on a few key priorities in this area:

- 1. Support the President's goal of ending childhood hunger by 2015 by increasing access to the Federal nutrition programs, testing strategies to better reach hungry children, and improving our understanding of the causes and consequences of childhood hunger.
- 2. Reduce childhood obesity and improve the diets of children through improvements in the nutrition quality of foods and beverages served in school, strategies to

encourage children's consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy products, and strong wellness and physical activity policies

3. Raising program performance to better serve our children. All government programs rely on public confidence in their efficiency and integrity. We can improve both through investments in technology, through improved business processes that promote program integrity and reduce errors, and through stronger enforcement tools to resolve management problems.

I believe the upcoming reauthorization is an important opportunity to consider improvements to all of the child nutrition programs, including the Child and Adult Care Food Program and look forward to working with you and the Committee on this important piece of legislation.

## Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry Nomination Hearing Questions for the Record Mr. Evan Segal July 7, 2009

## Senator Bob Casey, Jr.

2) President Obama continues to identify areas to reduce federal spending in order to address the deficit he inherited. Do you anticipate working with Secretary Vilsack to review the USDA budget as a part of this on-going work?

Response: President Obama's intention to address the federal deficit through reduced federal spending is an important one, and it is a charge that I take very seriously. If confirmed, I look forward to working as a member of Secretary Vilsack's team to tailor the USDA budget to meet his vision for the missions and priorities of the department. The development and monitoring of robust, intentional, and directed metrics-aimed at eliminating waste and reducing costs, while simultaneously improving quality and service-will help locate strengths and weaknesses throughout the department. This effort will direct us towards areas where we can effectively implement changes to eliminate redundancy and increase efficiency. I will assist the Secretary in any way I can to leverage the talented professionals in the department to help deliver higher quality products at a lower cost.

### Senator Amy Klobuchar

 The Department of Agriculture has a reputation for having one of the worst computer networks in the federal government. Different offices within the department can't easily communicate with one another because they are using different computer programs. Are you aware of this ongoing problem? Do you have any suggestions for how to fix this mess other than asking Congress for more funding?

Response: While I will certainly examine the funding aspects if my nomination is confirmed, I will collaborate with the USDA agencies and the Chief Information Officer on investment priorities for information technology within the existing funding requests. I will focus on using business process improvement methodologies to examine current and planned operating models to determine the efficiency, effectiveness, and interoperability of existing and planned service delivery methods, and will work to replicate the successful models throughout USDA. I will work to ensure that proven methodologies and systems are leveraged throughout USDA to minimize any additional funding requirements by building on the best of breed solutions currently deployed by the agencies and staff offices.

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