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HEARING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF KRYSTA HARDEN, PEARLIE S. REED, RAJIV J. SHAH, AND DALLAS P. TONSAGER

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

MAY 7, 2009

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HEARING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF KRYSTA HARDEN, PEARLIE S. REED, RAJIV J. SHAH, AND DALLAS P. TONSAGER

Thursday, May 7, 2009

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

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:37 a.m., in room SD–106, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Tom Harkin, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Harkin, Lincoln, Casey, Klobuchar, Bennet, Chambliss, Lugar, Cochran, Johanns, 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 Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry will come to order.

Today, the Committee meets to hear from four individuals nominated by President Obama to important positions at the Department of Agriculture: Dallas P. Tonsager for Under Secretary for Rural Development; Krysta Harden for Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations; Pearlie S. Reed for Assistant Secretary for Administration; and Rajiv J. Shah for Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics.

I will just make a few opening comments, but more formal introductions will follow momentarily.

We will look to the new Under Secretary for Rural Development for leadership and skill in helping our nation's rural communities tackle some very big challenges, including economic recession, job loss, lack of services, and aging infrastructure. In combination, the New Farm Bill that we passed last year, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act, along with the recent American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the so-called Stimulus Bill, contain important initiatives and investments for USDA rural development to carry out.

Among the key objectives are supporting new and expanding businesses, boosting renewable energy development, upgrading outdated and deficient rural water and waste water systems, expanding broadband telecommunications, and attracting new public and private investments in rural America.

We rely on the Assistant Secretary for congressional relations to keep the lines of communication open and to supply us with the in-

formation we need for crafting legislation and responding to the concerns of people that we serve.

Effective management by the Assistant Secretary for Administration is, in practical terms, vital to the success of every program, an undertaking at the Department of Agriculture. Simply put, USDA cannot function without proper attention to personnel, procurement and day-to-day operations.

The Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics is now also the chief scientist at USDA with the responsibility for carrying out USDA's own in-house research activities, supporting research, education and extension at our nation's state, land grant and other institutions, and maintaining USDA's vital economics and statistics functions. The manifold benefits of these activities extend throughout our society, from abundant food and fiber to renewable energy, bio-based materials, and a better way of life for all Americans.

So those are the four departments that we are looking at today and the nominees for those. I have refrained from mentioning their names because I know certain people want to have the pleasure of introducing these individuals. And so I will recognize individuals for the purposes of introduction. But before I do that, I would like to yield to your ranking member, Senator Chambliss, for his opening comments.

I recognize Senator Chambliss.

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

Senator CHAMBLISS. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome to all of our nominees out there. We are very pleased to see you here, pleased to see you willing to commit yourself to America's farmers and ranchers, and we look forward to this hearing today.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this hearing to consider the nominations of Mr. Tonsager, Dr. Shah, Mr. Reed and Ms. Harden for appointments to USDA. I look forward to hearing the testimony from each of you, and I know that you would agree with me that it is vital that we have good leadership in place at the Department to deal with the many issues, including implementation of the Farm Bill and the Recovery Act, as well as an important role in monitoring the H1N1 virus outbreak.

I am pleased that during today's proceedings, we are considering the Under Secretary for Rural Development. As our country faces economic and financial hardships, our rural citizens are certainly not exempt. And although 2008 saw a record high of net farm income, recent Bureau of Labor statistics show that rural counties are losing jobs at a faster rate than their urban counterparts.

This is particularly true in rural areas that rely more on the manufacturing sector than on the traditional farm income. They have now lost nearly 5 percent of their job since the recession began in December of 2007. This report is disturbing, but I believe that the opportunities on the horizon have never been brighter for rural America. And I am hopeful that 1 day in the near future, the use of renewables, such as biomass, will fulfill their potential of becoming a major source of energy production.

This development will positively affect all our sectors of rural America and the country at large through our businesses, industries and consumers. The Rural Development Agency is clearly in a position to assist in that effort in addition to helping improve the overall quality of life for rural citizens through the expansion of broadband access and support of basic public facilities and services.

Mr. Tonsager, I can see that you have a deep breadth of knowledge and experience in all things rural, from growing up on a dairy farm to your public service as state director of Rural Development in South Dakota, and most recently, serving on the Farm Credit Administration Board of Directors. I look forward to hearing your perspective on America's rural economy.

Dr. Shah, our nation's agricultural research system is held up as a model for other countries. The Federal, state and local investment in agricultural research, education and extension has led to increased productivity and yields, new crop varieties, and a multitude of techniques and practices to help us preserve our natural resource base.

Today, this system is under strain. The entire system is underfunded. Within the administration, USDA struggles for budgetary support. In Congress, the system is pitted against other funding priorities. The 2008 Farm Bill made significant changes to some agricultural research programs. The changes provide an opportunity for the agricultural research system to rebuild and meet the challenges of the 21st century.

As you undertake this task in your role of under secretary and chief scientist of the Department, I encourage you to work with Congress and get to know the land-grant universities and the USDA research agencies because we are all partners in this effort. Please do not let these challenges get you down. You have a good system and good people already in place, and they need a champion. And I hope you are ready to be that champion, and I look forward to working with you.

Mr. Reed, you have spent more than 30 years at USDA, and I am pleased that you are willing to return to public service at the Department once again. The office for which you are nominated is a tremendous responsibility, and you will be responsible for providing departmental leadership on a variety of management services essential to the direction and operation of the Department's mission and goals.

Perhaps the most critical role you will have involves the protection and well-being of the Department's greatest resource, its employees. USDA employees nationwide will count on you to act in their best interest and provide them an environment to effectively and efficiently serve our constituents. We appreciate your interest in serving.

Mr. Chairman, I will hold my remarks regarding Krysta Harden for when I have the pleasure of introducing her to the Committee. So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Senator Chambliss.

We are joined today by our distinguished colleague from the House side, a very distinguished member of the House Agriculture Committee and here for the purposes of introductions. And that is

the way we will go. We will start with Mr. Tonsager, then Ms. Harden, and then Mr. Reed, and then Dr. Shah.

So we welcome Congresswoman Herseth Sandlin to the Committee, and I would yield to you for purposes of an introduction.

STATEMENT OF HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Ms. SANDLIN. Chairman Harkin, Senator Chambliss and members of the Committee, thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to introduce a fellow South Dakotan and my very good friend, Mr. Dallas Tonsager, as the Senate Agriculture Committee considers his nomination for the United States Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Together with Senator Johnson, who, unfortunately, could not be here in person with us today, we are pleased to support Dallas' nomination and recommend him wholeheartedly for this position. I can think of no one better qualified for this important appointment than Dallas. He brings to this position an extraordinary work ethic and a history of working in a bipartisan fashion for the betterment of rural America.

I have known Dallas, his wife, Sharon, and their sons for many years. And I know that Dallas is widely respected in no small part because of his constructive approach, his informed and innovative ideas, and his honest, forthright communication. His advice, counsel and creative thinking have served many policymakers, including me, over the years.

In partnership with his brother, Doug, Dallas owns Plain View Farm in Oldham, South Dakota, a family operation that includes corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. His family farming roots and extensive leadership experience will substantially contribute to shaping a rural agenda that bolsters and enhances our rural communities and to seizing opportunities for rural America to help solve many of the challenges facing our country today; at the same time, creating jobs for the next generation of Americans who choose to live and raise their families in rural communities.

Dallas has held board positions on the Farm Credit Administration and Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation and contributed to economic development as the executive director of the South Dakota Value-Added Agriculture Development Center.

He was appointed by President Clinton as the South Dakota State Rural Development Director in 1993 and was named one of two outstanding state directors by USDA in 1999. As president of the South Dakota Farmers Union, Dallas worked to advance farming and ranching priorities and to preserve the quality of life in rural America. His record speaks for itself with respect to the accomplishments and progress he has achieved.

I am confident that Dallas would be among the strongest assets that USDA could have in helping to implement the priorities of President Obama's administration. Further, our rural communities, rural businesses, and rural citizens will surely benefit from having Dallas as their advocate, and I urge the members of this committee and the Senate to confirm Dallas Tonsager's nomination.

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Congresswoman. I appreciate your being here for this introduction.

Here is the way we will proceed. First of all, I have to administer and oath and ask a question to all of you. We will hear Mr. Tonsager's opening statement. I will then yield to Senator Chambliss for an introduction and a statement, and then Senator Lincoln for Mr. Reed and a statement, and then Senator Cantwell, who is on her way, will be here for purposes of introduction.

So if I could ask all four of you to rise; raise your right hand.

Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Mr. TONSAGER. Yes.

Ms. HARDEN. Yes.

Mr. REED. Yes.

Mr. SHAH. Yes.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you.

Do you agree that if confirmed, you will appear before any duly constituted committee of the Congress if asked?

Mr. Tonsager?

Mr. TONSAGER. Yes.

Chairman HARKIN. Ms. Harden?

Ms. HARDEN. Yes.

Chairman HARKIN. Mr. Reed?

Mr. REED. Yes.

Chairman HARKIN. Dr. Shah?

Mr. SHAH. Yes.

Chairman HARKIN. Please be seated. Thank you very much.

Well, Mr. Tonsager, a great introduction. Welcome. You are not too much of a stranger to this committee. Welcome back, I should say. And before you start your statement, perhaps you would like to introduce your family that is here.

I ask all, because they have great families here, and we would like to know who you have got here.

Mr. TONSAGER. Thank you, Senator. And, yes, I would very much like to, if I could.

First of all, my wife, Sharon; my son, Keith, and his wife, Lindsey; my son, Joshua; my sister-in-law, Sharon, as well; my brother, Dennis; my sister, Diane; and my brother, Douglas, who actually does the work in our family.

Chairman HARKIN. Welcome here. Welcome, everybody. Thank you for coming.

[Applause.]

Chairman HARKIN. I could make some crack about is there anyone left in South Dakota, but I will refrain.

[Laughter.]

Chairman HARKIN. I will refrain.

Please proceed, Mr. Tonsager.

And all of your statements will be made part of the record in their entirety. If you would like to sum up, we would appreciate that.

Mr. Tonsager.

Mr. TONSAGER. Thank you very much, Senator.

TESTIMONY OF DALLAS P. TONSAGER, NOMINEE, UNDER SECRETARY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. TONSAGER. Thank you, Chairman Harkin, Senator Chambliss, members of the Committee. It is a privilege to sit before the Committee, which continues to provide the leadership and foresight for the benefit of all agriculture and rural America. Specifically, I want to acknowledge your leadership, Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Chambliss, and should I be confirmed, I will enjoy working with you to improve the quality of life for rural Americans.

I also want to thank our good friend, Congresswoman Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, for her introduction today. I have learned a great deal about how to help rural communities by watching Congresswoman Herseth Sandlin's leadership in South Dakota.

Thank you, Stephanie.

It is an honor to appear before you today as President Obama's choice to be the next Under Secretary of Rural Development at the United States Department of Agriculture.

Now, here is the part where I would have put my family in, Senator, so thank you for letting me do that in advance.

It is indeed a great honor and privilege to be selected by President Obama to carry out his vision for the revitalization of rural America, and I am excited by the opportunity to serve with Secretary Vilsack, who is a strong advocate for America's agricultural producers and defender of rural residents throughout this country. My enthusiasm is tempered only by the realization of the challenges rural Americans face everyday with lost jobs, disappearing essential services, out-migration, and crumbling infrastructure.

We find ourselves in difficult times. President Obama's vision for America is aggressive and will take commitment, sacrifice and perseverance to be successful. I want the members of this committee to know that if you should confirm me, I will accept this responsibility.

Mr. Chairman, I am not telling you, or the members of the Committee, anything you do not already recognize. You know all too well the challenges we face in addressing the needs of the 50 million Americans residing in our small towns and rural communities. The Farm Bill written by this committee and passed last year, and the stimulus packaged passed earlier this year, provide the foundation and funding for many of the president's initiatives.

The president has rolled out an appropriately ambitious and multifaceted plan to stimulate the faltering economy. In the area of rural economic development, the president's vision focuses on several important goals. First and foremost, the funding provided in the stimulus package to rural development will be allocated as quickly as possible and at the same time, ensuring that it is ordered in a fair, transparent and responsible manner.

Renewable energy is not only critically important for the rural economy, it is important for the entire U.S. economy and national security. The burgeoning renewable energy industries will grow the U.S. economy, make the U.S. more energy independent, and help address climate change. USDA rural development has a number of programs to advance renewable technologies that will bring skilled jobs to rural communities.

Broadband access to rural residents is also a key to bringing important services to rural residents and providing skilled jobs. Thanks to this committee's insistence, the stimulus package provided significant additional funding for the development of broadband access. I know that this is an important issue for the members of this committee.

In all of these areas, I pledge to work with you and your staffs to ensure that we identify the communities with the greatest need.

Of course, rural development has many other programs that will aid rural residents in their communities so that we can thrive and prosper. Rural development has a strong portfolio of housing community facilities, business, and utility programs that provide the building blocks for community development.

Agriculture and rural communities are dependent upon one another. It is my experience that farmer-owned, value-added enterprises can breathe new life into small towns and communities. Rural development's cooperative services and the value-added programs provide the agriculture producers the tool to work together to receive the maximum value from their land and their labor and bring their jobs to a community.

It takes teamwork and cooperation to be successful, especially within rural development. If confirmed, I will work to bring all parties to the table: community leaders, planning districts, councils of governments, cooperative development centers, community development corporations, land-grant universities, and others to develop projects and successful development strategies.

As a former state director for rural development, I know and have worked with the employees at USDA's Rural Development and have great respect for the work they do and their dedication to the mission of rural economic development. If confirmed, I will look forward to rejoining my former colleagues, and together we will do our very best to find solutions to the challenges rural communities face. I will be a tireless advocate for the constituents we are all sworn to serve.

With that in mind, I also want to emphasize my commitment to working to resolve any outstanding civil rights claims, whether in program or employment practices. If confirmed, I will not tolerate any form of discrimination in the agencies that I will be leading, and I will look forward to working with Secretary Vilsack to address this very important issue.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, as a farmer and lifelong resident of a rural community, as a South Dakota rural development director during the Clinton administration, as an executive director for the South Dakota Value-Added Agriculture Center, and currently as a Farm Credit Administration board member, I have spent most of my professional adult life in and around agriculture and rural communities and, challenges notwithstanding, if confirmed, I look forward to rolling up my sleeves to do what I can to renew the hopes of rural Americans everywhere, so that America, specifically rural America, will once again prosper. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Tonsager can be found on page 42 in the appendix.]

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Mr. Tonsager.

Again, we will withhold questions until everyone's made their statements.

Now, I will yield to our distinguished ranking member, Senator Chambliss, for purposes, again, of an introduction of someone who is certainly not a stranger around here.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And Krysta Harden is not a stranger to this crowd. She has been on the Hill for many years, went off the Hill, and is now willing to come back. And we are very pleased about that. And I know she will introduce her family, but I know her because of her family.

Her husband, Congressman Charles Hatcher, has been my dear friend for longer than he and I either care to disclose in public here. But we practiced law with and against each other in South Georgia for many years, and he is a great guy and a dear friend.

I see her sister, JaBra, back there.

JaBra, it is great to see you. Glad to have you here supporting Krysta.

I actually met Krysta Harden in 1980, while we were both working on Charles' campaign for his first run at Congress, in which he was successful because of Krysta.

[Laughter.]

Senator CHAMBLISS. She proceeded on to graduate from the University of Georgia. She is a great loyal Georgia Bulldog, but she also is a huge baseball fan. One thing I remember about Krysta is that she told me one time during the 1980's that she was putting her name in to buy Washington baseball tickets with the hope that 1 day that we would have a baseball team in Washington. So she got in line early.

She grew up on a farm in Mitchell County, Georgia. Her parents, Jamie and Jimmie—or Hard Rock, as we know him—Harden are just salt-of-the-earth people. And Jimmie is a hardworking farmer, and Krysta knows what hard work on a farm is all about. And she certainly knows agriculture inside and out from a grassroots perspective.

She served on Charles' staff for many years; ultimately became his chief staff, then went to the committee and served as staff director on the committee, dealing primarily with peanuts and tobacco back, then, when tobacco was a program.

She went downtown for a while, and then now, in 2004, became the director of the National Association of Conservation Districts. And she has done a great job down there. She has a real passion, Mr. Chairman, along with you, for conservation. And I am very pleased to see someone with her experience, her passion, her commitment to agriculture, and her energy, which is unbelievable, to be willing to come to the Department.

She will have a very important role with this Committee because she is going to be responsible for interacting with us on a regular daily basis, and it is going to be a real pleasure to work with her.

Krysta, we are pleased to have you here, pleased to have you being willing to come back into public service.

Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to present to the Committee Krysta Harden.

Chairman HARKIN. Very good.

Well, Ms. Harden, again, while I do not share that long history, we do share some history in the more recent past. But I share the sentiments expressed by my friend and my colleague. Welcome to the Committee. And even though he has introduced your family, go ahead and do it for me so we recognize them.

TESTIMONY OF KRYSTA HARDEN, NOMINEE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ms. HARDEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Senator Chambliss. My husband, Charles Hatcher, which Senator Chambliss introduced, right there; and my baby sister, JaBra Harden from Valdosta, Georgia.

[Applause.]

Ms. HARDEN. I have been saying baby sister her whole life, so she is probably not happy.

It is with great pride and pleasure that I am here today before the members of the Senate Agriculture Committee as a nominee for Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations.

Senator Chambliss, who would have ever thought, when we first met, that either one of us would be here today in these roles? It is such an honor. It is just a special, special honor to have you introduce me before the Committee today. I appreciate your leadership, and your friendship, especially.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been a pleasure to work with you on many issues impacting agriculture. I enjoyed my years working with soybean growers, a lot of them from your state, and I learned a great deal about agriculture and conservation from you and your constituents.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chambliss, and members of the Committee, I come before you with an open mind and a willingness to work with each and every one of you. I will be responsive to your requests and respectful of your concerns and questions. And while I will not always have the answers you seek, and certainly your positions on issues may differ from those of USDA leadership, I will be fair and honest and straightforward in my dealings with you and your staff. I know that successful relationships are two way. There must be open communication, a sharing of information, and trust between parties. If confirmed, I pledge to do my part in making sure that happens. I truly look forward to strengthening old relationships and building some new ones.

As the Committee considers my nomination for this position, I hope you will take into account my record, my experiences, my commitment of service to the Congress, as well as the functions and missions of the Department of Agriculture.

As a daughter of a Georgia farm family, I have a very strong appreciation for American agriculture. I know firsthand the challenges that farmers and ranchers face trying to make a living in today's tough economic climate. I also know that those who work the land are diligent and innovative enough to continue to advance agriculture, for my almost 12 years as a staffer on Capitol Hill gives me a clear understanding of the pressures and demands of your jobs. I know the value of prompt attention to your questions

and concerns, and the importance of listening to and learning about each of your states' unique situations.

I also believe that my experience in the private sector has helped me prepare for this role. I have worked with landowners from every state and territory. I have traveled extensively and seen the variety and diversity of agriculture. I have been involved in a wide range of issues, including conservation, renewable energy, nutrition, research, and forestry. I look forward to working with each of you to make sure our policies are forward-thinking and keep American agriculture competitive.

I am keenly aware of the many challenges we face, including implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill, getting economic recovery dollars on the ground, addressing lasting implications of recent disasters, defining agriculture's role in climate change, reauthorizing the Child Nutrition Act, and the list goes on and on. But I feel confident that my upbringing, my experience and my passion for the land, and those who work the land everyday, make me right for this position.

I look forward to assisting Secretary Vilsack with his strong commitment to civil rights at the Department. It is crucial that our programs and policies are fair, open for full participation, and provide service to all constituencies. If confirmed, I pledge to have an open door. I will do all that I can to ensure that everyone has access to the same information, and discrimination in any form is not tolerated.

I know, Mr. Chairman, it is totally unlikely I will ever win an Academy Award for anything because I am not an actor, you know. So I hope you will allow me just a few minutes to thank a couple of people who are responsible for me being here today.

Certainly, the first person is President Obama, who is nominating me for this position, and Secretary Vilsack, who is allowing me to serve if confirmed. I also want to thank my sweet husband, Charles Hatcher, who has taught me so many things, including that public service is an honor and a privilege and should never be abused or taken for granted; that working in a bipartisan manner is a tradition in agriculture and that compromise can be a good thing.

Thank you, Charles, for your important lessons, your love and your support.

I also want to thank my wonderful parents, Jamie and Jimmie Harden, who are at home in Camilla, Georgia, hopefully watching me via Internet, which is hard to believe, but that is true, even in rural south Georgia; and my sister, JaBra Harden Fuller, who you met. Thank you to the three of them for always being there for me, guiding me, loving me, and supporting me.

I would also like to recognize a couple young boys that are here, have taken the day off from school for me; my godson, Henry Mitchell, and his brother, Campbell, who are behaving very nicely back there.

I would like to thank some folks who have helped shaped my professional life. First, my friends and colleagues on and off Capitol Hill, many are in the room today; and my colleagues at Gordley Associates; and, certainly, the leaders and staff of the National Association of Conservation Districts, where I have spent the last 5

years of my career. I especially want to recognize Steve Robinson, the president of NACD, who is here from Ohio.

Thank you all for your help and support.

Mr. Chairman, Senator Chambliss, if recommended by the Committee and confirmed by the Senate, I pledge to serve as Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations with honor and respect. I look forward to working with you. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Harden can be found on page 33 in the appendix.]

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you, Ms. Harden. And, again, it has been a real pleasure to work with you in various capacities in the past. And I would be remiss if I did not say I welcome your husband back here, my former colleague on the House Agriculture Committee. We served together for a few years on the House Agriculture Committee before I came over here. So it is good to see Charlie again. Thank you very much. This is going to be very good.

Now, I will turn to Senator Lincoln for an introduction of another person who is not very much of a stranger around here.

Senator Lincoln.

STATEMENT OF HON. BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

Senator LINCOLN. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and to you and Senator Chambliss both for bringing this group before us today. I want to say a special thanks to Ms. Harden, because as a farmer's daughter myself, I am glad to know that we will have someone over there that has spent a lifetime really admiring what farm families do across this great country. So we appreciate that.

But, Mr. Chairman, I am here today very proud to introduce a fellow Arkansan, Pearlie Reed, who has been nominated by the Obama administration for Assistant Secretary for the Administration at USDA. As you have mentioned, Pearlie is certainly no stranger. He has a track record in public service and working in USDA that few people can match, Mr. Chairman. And Pearlie's story starts in Heth, Arkansas.

Now, Pearlie, you may not know this, but Senator Bennet from Colorado is married to a woman from Marianna, Arkansas. And so, we have got Phillips, Lee and St. Francis County well represented here before the Senate Agriculture Committee.

[Laughter.]

Senator LINCOLN. But Pearlie's story does start in Heth, Arkansas. It is a small town in the Mississippi Delta. In those counties that I mentioned, Pearlie is well known, for sure. He attained is undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Incredibly, he began his 32–year career with USDA as a student trainee in 1968. From there, he worked his way up as a conservation professional, and was eventually named chief of the National Resource Conservation Service in 1998, and served in that capacity until 2002. He has made all of us in Arkansas extremely proud. He also served as acting assistant secretary for Administration, where he provided leadership to more than 300 employees on the Civil Rights Action Team.

Pearlie's accomplishments have not gone un-noticed, Mr. Chairman. He was awarded the Presidential Rank Award, the highest

award for career government officials. Pearlie has accomplished much. His stellar record speaks for itself, Mr. Chairman. Some might ask what is there for him to accomplish at USDA, and everyone in this room knows that USDA faces some enormous challenges in serving producers and ranchers across the country.

Should he be confirmed, Mr. Chairman, Pearlie's experience, his wisdom, his passion and his background will be an invaluable asset in confronting those challenges head on. And he certainly has my full support, and I am proud to call Pearlie not only a colleague from Arkansas, but a friend, and we are delighted to have him here in the Committee.

Good luck, Pearlie. Congratulations.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Senator. And, Mr. Reed, again, welcome back to the Committee from appearances in the past, and, again, recognize you for an opening statement and introduction of family members who may be with you.

TESTIMONY OF PEARLIE S. REED, NOMINEE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. REED. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one family member, the boss, my spouse, Lesia.

[Applause.]

Mr. REED. Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Chambliss, and members of the Committee, I am pleased to have this opportunity to appear before you today. A special thank you to Senator Lincoln for that kind introduction. I would also like to thank all of those who have been responsible for my success in life, especially my family and the many great men and women who have served with during my career at USDA.

I thank President Obama and Secretary Vilsack for their vote of confidence manifested in my nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration. Secretary Vilsack has shared with me his vision for USDA. I understand and believe in what he would like to accomplish. If confirmed, I will be 100 percent committed to ensuring that the management apparatus of the Department is focused on the efficient and effective delivery of programs and services USDA-wide.

I have worked and lived in four of the major regions of our great country, the Southeast, Mid-West and West. I have had two tours of duty in USDA Headquarters in Washington. During my career in and out of government, I have seen all sides of USDA, the excellent, the good, the bad and the ugly. I have had a remarkable career, rising from a Grade GS–03 to be the chief of the National Resources Conservation Service. Also, from 1997 to 1998, I served as acting assistant secretary for Administration, the position I am now being nominated for. I have also served as state conservationist for Maryland and California.

I took advantage of training, self-development and other opportunities made available to me by USDA. I do not know of any other organization where I could have accomplished more, and because of these opportunities and my background, I feel that I am uniquely qualified to help USDA. And if confirmed, I will work tirelessly

with Secretary Vilsack, his leadership team, the Congress and stakeholders to improve USDA.

I fully understand the complexities of the Department of Agriculture. The complexity is compounded by the massive structure of USDA field-based agencies and the system of state and county commissions and boards. The management of the Department much ensure that the delivery of programs and services impacted by this system is made available to all who qualify.

It is with this in mind that I want to emphasize my commitment to resolving outstanding civil rights claims and any discriminatory employment practices. I believe that if we work together, many of the challenges we currently face we can correct.

The management agenda of the Department must include an aggressive investment in its human capital. The development and selection of top talent are paramount. If confirmed, I will use all authorities available to USDA to pursue excellence in human resources management. In addition, I believe that all departmental administration areas are important. If confirmed, I will ensure that departmental administration is providing the services needed to underpin the effective and efficient delivery of USDA programs and services.

I will conclude by, once again, thanking President Obama and Secretary Vilsack for their confidence in me, and also thank you, Mr. Chairman, Senator Chambliss, and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to appear there today.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Reed can be found on page 36 in the appendix.]

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Mr. Reed, and we will hold the questions for final introduction. And, for that I will, to introduce Dr. Shah, turn to our distinguished colleague from the state of Washington, Senator Cantwell.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Ranking Member Chambliss, and members of the Committee, for holding this important hearing. And I am pleased to be here to introduce Dr. Raj Shah, and I urge my colleagues to swiftly confirm him as the next Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics at the United States Department of Agriculture.

Raj has an extremely impressive resume that equips him for success at the Department of Agriculture. He earned him M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and a Masters of Science in Health Economics at the Wharton School of Business. He has attended the London School of Economics, the University of Michigan, and has published several articles on the health policy and global development.

Currently, Raj is the director of Agriculture Development and Global Development Programs at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In this position, he has worked with some of the poorest farmers in the world to help them improve productivity and their standard of living. Raj has also served as the foundation's director of Strategic Opportunities and as deputy director of Policy for Finance for Global Health Programs. In these roles, he has helped launch the Global Development Program and International Finance Facility for Immunization, an effort that has raised more than $5 billion for child immunization.

Raj has the tools, the knowledge, and the unique global perspective necessary to excel as Under Secretary of Research, Education and Economics at USDA. In his new role, Raj would oversee the agricultural research service and cooperative state research education and extension services and several other important research agencies within USDA. I am glad that President Obama has recognized Raj's work at the Gates Foundation, which will allow him to bring that unique perspective and point of view to USDA.

Raj is well aware of the power of research to transform and improve the lives of everyone. Raj has previously worked with the University of Washington, in Washington State, on many projects related to animal and human health, and his past commitment to various services shows that he will bring dedication to the USDA to produce the best agricultural science in the world.

I am confident that he will do all that he can to ensure the United States continues to be a leader in agricultural research, especially research in the areas of advanced biofuels and bioengineering. I hope that we can work with the Committee to successfully move his nomination to the floor, so that all my colleagues can quickly confirm his nomination. I thank the Chairman for this ability to introduce him before the Agriculture Committee.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Senator Cantwell.

Dr. Shah, welcome to the Committee. I might just add for the record that I was privy to spend a pleasant evening with Dr. Shah last year. And it was a very enlightening evening because we were talking about health and what Dr. Shah was doing with the Gates Foundation. So it was a very pleasant revelation when later on, I found out that you had been nominated for this position.

So congratulations, welcome, and if you would introduce your family members who are with you so we could recognize them.

Dr. Shah.

TESTIMONY OF RAJIV J. SHAH, M.D., NOMINEE, UNDER SECRETARY OF RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. SHAH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a large family with me today. So my wife, Shivam Mallick Shah behind me; my 1–year-old daughter, Amna, who is sleeping over here; my son, Sajan, who out of deference for the Committee today wanted to wear a shirt with a truck on it, but we convinced him otherwise.

[Laughter.]

Mr. SHAH. My mother and father, Rina and Janard [ph.]; and my in-laws just behind them, Kamala and Isha Mallick.

Chairman HARKIN. Well, thank you very much.

[Applause.]

Mr. SHAH. Mr. Chairman, Senator Chambliss, members of the Committee, I am honored to be nominated by President Obama to this position, and I appreciate Secretary Vilsack's confidence in me in his invitation to join his leadership team.

Thank you, Senator Cantwell, for that very kind introduction and for your commitment to the people of Washington State. It is always fun to think about the great work that is happening in Washington State on agricultural research and any number of other scientific endeavors.

I am excited by the opportunity to lead the research portfolios of the Department at a time when this work touches so many of our national challenges: agricultural production, nutrition, food safety, energy independence, and the sustainability of our natural resources. I also recognize the responsibilities of serving as the chief scientist at USDA. President Obama has often emphasized his commitment to ensure decision making is based on scientific evidence, and if confirmed, I will seek to carry out that mandate.

In my work at the Gates Foundation, I have had the opportunity to meet agricultural scientists from around the world, and I have drawn inspiration from many of them. One of my heroes is Dr. Norman Borlaug, the only agricultural scientist to win the Nobel Peace Prize—perhaps there should have been many others—for his use of science to help prevent widespread starvation. His life is a testament to the fact that effective agricultural research, coupled with the determination to make the world a better place, can help address our most pressing challenges at home and abroad.

These challenges have been stated clearly by Secretary Vilsack. Food production must meet the needs of a world population that will exceed 9 billion in 2050, and it must do so while taking into account a warming planet and the need to use nitrogen, water and other inputs, far more efficiently.

Agriculture, including forestry, has the potential to provide a sustainable source of energy at a time when the president, the secretary and members of this committee have highlighted the need for our nation to work toward energy independence. Second and third-generation biofuels and advanced biomass strategies are critical to that endeavor.

Americans following the leadership of this committee are increasingly aware of the critical links between agriculture and human health. All Americans rely on strong agricultural science as it relates to the safety of our food supplies, protection against animal diseases, including zoonotic diseases that transmit from animals to humans, and the critical role that a healthy, nutritious diet can play in preventing debilitating chronic disease, diseases like obesity, diabetes and hypertension.

We can and should do more to identify these links, connect to the health community, and work to ensure every American can identify and access a healthy diet. In 1977, this committee changed its name, as you know, to add nutrition. If confirmed, I hope to benefit from your ongoing guidance in carrying out this mandate.

Last year, an additional nearly 100 million people entered into extreme poverty around the world, resulting in nearly 1 billion people going hungry. President Obama has called for our agricultural research, education and aid institutions to work together to demonstrate American leadership in preventing global hunger. If confirmed, I will seek your guidance on how to contribute to this goal.

With the founding of the Land-Grant University System in 1862 and the critically important 1890 schools, the United States became the world leader in agricultural production, based on the strength of its research and by linking research, education and extension.

The Agricultural Research Service, which developed the original method for large-scale production of penicillin, and did so in time

for its use in World War II, also has a storied history. Last year, this committee laid the groundwork for taking this leadership into the future by creating the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Establishing a new national institute is a unique opportunity to create a strategic focused and results-oriented research enterprise. I believe there are important lessons to be learned from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation in carrying out this task, and if confirmed, I look forward to working with the Committee to implement this important provision of the Farm Bill. The Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistical Service also represent critical assets at any effort to make research and policy relevant to American producers and consumers.

I share Secretary Vilsack's commitment to addressing civil rights concerns as a top priority for this Department. And also share the secretary's aspiration to modernize the Department's technology platforms. If confirmed, I hope to use these new technologies to improve the transparency and outcomes of the research investments we made.

I became a medical doctor to care for and, hopefully, heal individuals. I quickly became absorbed in broader issues of public health, as I felt that was a path to serve larger populations. That path has given me a lot of great opportunities to help address child obesity in the Philadelphia schools, to help children in poor countries gain access to life-saving immunizations, and, most recently, to launch an agricultural development program to address the global crisis of extreme hunger and rural poverty.

In each area, I have tried to learn from others, be pragmatic and fact-based in the pursuit of solutions, and stay focused on the goal of making a difference in people's lives. If confirmed, I hope to bring that same spirit of learning, energy for service, and commitment to outcome to this position.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Ranking Member, and the Committee for the opportunity to appear before you today. I, again, want to thank President Obama and Secretary Vilsack for their confidence, and my wife, Shivam, whose support allows me to embrace this important challenge and opportunity. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Shah can be found on page 39 in the appendix.]

Chairman HARKIN. Dr. Shah, thank you very much for your statement, and all of you.

He has a pending engagement; he has to leave, so I will yield now to Senator Chambliss.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I apologize for having to step out and do a radio show, but thanks for letting me go first.

Mr. Tonsager—am I saying that right?

Mr. TONSAGER. Yes, sir.

Senator CHAMBLISS. If you are confirmed, you will oversee all of the rural development mission area. The rural electric programs are vital to the nation, and especially to my home state. In Georgia, my electric co-ops, as well as the municipal systems, are what we call MEAG and Georgia Power.

If teamed up to be a new nuclear power facility on an existing site, what is known as Plant Vogtle, 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 our U.S. baseload financing.

Can I get a commitment from you to work to re-establish baseload financing for nuclear power at RUS?

Mr. TONSAGER. I am not entirely familiar with the issue relative to that at this time. I understand that there are prohibitions in place regarding the use of financing for nuclear power or coal-based power through the rural utility service. I would be anxious to work with you to go further on the issue because I am a great fan of the rural electrical systems, and I know the needs regarding baseload power and the problems associated with baseload power.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Well, I appreciate that. It is unfortunate we did not build more nuclear plants 20 years ago because it has turned out to be the most efficient, cleanest way we can produce it. And going forward, I think it is going to be important for rural America that we are able to provide them that clean, efficient power. And nuclear seems to be the best way.

Ms. Harden, rather than a question, it is just a comment to you. There is no more important position than yours when it comes to dialoguing with members of this committee, as well as other Members of Congress. You have vast experience that lends you to be very well-qualified there.

I was pleased to hear you say that you recognize there are going to be differences. You had your difference with administrations that were in place when you served on the Hill, and Secretary, or now Senator Johanns, and I had significant differences from time to time when he was at the Department. But we were always able to work through them, and we worked through them because of the dialog.

I have no doubt you are going to be very efficient in staying in touch with folks on both sides of the aisle here. And, again, I just thank you for your willingness to serve and let Charles go play golf more often or something there.

Ms. HARDEN. I think he will enjoy that. And I am certain that my private line will be on your speed dial.

Senator CHAMBLISS. It will be.

Mr. Reed, again, thank you for your commitment. You are going to be overseeing a very important function that I have a significant interest in and Senator Harkin and I have talked about over the course of the last several years, and that is trying to make sure that we get our IT updated within our FSA offices.

We have got farmers who sit in their tractors now, and with their GPS's, they kind of mash a button and the tractor puts out all the fertilizer that they need, in the right spots they need, at the amounts that are needed. And they have got to go down to the FSA office, rather than sit at their computer, and fill out all their forms by hand.

We have got to move away from that. We are in a true IT age, and we have not made the commitment that we need to make to provide you with the resources to do this. But I hope you will continue to oversee that, and you will let us know what those resource

needs are, so that we can move in a positive direction relative to the IT world and agriculture.

Dr. Shah, I am a huge fan of research. I do not care whether it is agriculture, medicine or defense areas. I think it is foundation of where farmers are going to be 20 years from now, and it is just critically important that we continue to maintain a good source, from a funding standpoint as well as otherwise.

I was pleased to hear the president set an ambitious goal of devoting more than 3 percent of GDP to research and development in a statement he made not long ago, but, unfortunately, I did not hear him mention agricultural research in there.

I would like to ask you for your commitment to lean on the administration to ensure that agriculture gets its fair share, from a resource standpoint, from the administration when it comes to budgeting agricultural research along with other areas of research.

Mr. SHAH. I absolutely can offer that commitment. I believe if the agricultural research community, as it already does, can continue to provide a high level of scientific rigor in the decisions that it makes about resource allocation, and focus the work on achieving important results for producers and also for consumers, and be more transparent in the process, that it should be possible to advocate for that type of increased commitment to agricultural research.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Thank you very much. And again, thanks to all of you for your willingness to serve.

Thanks, The Chairman.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Senator Chambliss.

Mr. Tonsager, again, in the stimulus bill that we put out, we put in $2.5 billion to get broadband out as fast as possible, $2.5 billion. Now, the public comment period is still open—I do not know when it is closing, but pretty soon I hope—and this is something that has not been really aggressively pursued for the last several years.

If confirmed, will you work to get economic recovery funding on the ground as quickly as possible, again, while maintaining accountability and transparency, to ensure that these taxpayer dollars are being invested as effectively and efficiently, but as rapidly as possible, to get broadband out as soon as we can?

Mr. TONSAGER. Absolutely. I think it is extremely important we move as quickly as we can. I think we need to coordinate our efforts closely with the NTIA and develop clear understandings with them about getting the resources out. I think it is very important we look at affordability for those users of broadband access in rural areas, and try to make it as affordable as possible, so it is not only available but it is accessible by those people who have the resources or the need to use broadband communications.

Chairman HARKIN. I am glad that Ms. Harden's folks must have broadband where you are.

Ms. HARDEN. We just got it.

Chairman HARKIN. But I am still chafing. I live in a town of 160 people, and I still do not have it. So we have got it out. Maybe not the towns, but we have got to get it out to our rural communities.

Mr. TONSAGER. I believe that it is certainly one of the top priorities for me walking into this, to address this quickly as possible.

Chairman HARKIN. I appreciate that.

Again, Ms. Harden, thank you again very much for your willingness to serve and for all of your past working with us here. As head of congressional relations now, I do not know if I can add anything, except that when that over committee over on the House side, when they call you up about something, just tell them you have got to check with us first. OK?

[Laughter.]

Ms. HARDEN. I will try that. I will see if it works.

Thank you, sir.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Ms. Harden.

Mr. Reed, as a follow up on that question that Senator Chambliss said, we put $50 million mandatory funding for FSA computers, and then we put 22 million in fiscal year 09 appropriations, and 50 more million in the Recovery Bill, the Stimulus Bill. So we need to get these upgraded as soon as possible. I just want to get those figures out there, that that money's there, and we have to get this done as soon as possible.

But the one thing I just want to cover, Mr. Reed, is a program that we started in the 2002 Farm Bill. There is a provision in that farm bill, which is permanent law, which states—well, I don't know if I can—it basically says that every department and agency of the Federal Government shall give a priority to bio-based products in their purchasing, as long as they are equivalent in price performance and availability.

Well, we have been pushing this for a long time. We have had hearings on it. The Department of Defense had a wonderful couple days—what will I call it, fair or something like that, for people to come in and exhibit what they had. But we still have not gone too far. We had a labeling program to label it. That was established in 2002, and we still do not have it. We still do not have a labeling program for that.

Secretary Vilsack, when he was here for his nomination, said that the program is a priority, and I know since that time, he has reached out to the other departments. He has brought it up in a cabinet meeting at the White House. I know that other secretaries did not even know they had that responsibility, but they do. It is in permanent law, and does not say "may", it says "shall". So it applies to every department and every agency.

So I guess my question to you is, would you be willing to personally champion expeditious implementation of this bio-based markets program, including the labeling program?

Mr. REED. Absolutely, Mr. Chairman. I have already taken a look at that, and I know that from a USDA perspective, we can and need to employ all of the procurement authorities we have to do as much as we possibly can at USDA. And, also, I see it as my role, if confirmed, to make sure that I keep abreast of what is going on governmentwide and work with Secretary Vilsack so that he knows and understands, from an operating, practical level, what is going on and where we might have opportunities to take—where we might have the opportunity to take advantage of ratcheting up the focus on the 2002 Farm Bill.

Chairman HARKIN. Mr. Reed, would you be willing to have USDA report back to this committee within 90 days, that is 3 months from now, of taking office, so we can learn of the progress

that you are making on this? This is something that has just been sitting there for far too long, and we have got to get hot on it.

So I would like to ask if you would come up here in 3 months—that would be the end of the summer sometime, maybe—let's see. This is May, June, July, end of July, maybe even the first of September, something like that, to report on that?

Mr. REED. So ordered.

Chairman HARKIN. All right. Thank you. I appreciate that very much.

Dr. Shah, again, thank you for your willingness to serve and take over this important position. Someone noted—I do not know who it was—our middle name is nutrition. And we have a big responsibility this year—the only thing that we really have to do in this committee, aside from nominations, is we have to reauthorize the Child Nutrition Bill. That is school lunch, school breakfast, the WIC program, afterschool, summer feeding programs, and the adult and child care food programs.

We are working closely with the House—it is not on the House Agriculture Committee, it is in the House, Education and Labor Committee. But we have jurisdiction here. And we need your best input into that and your help, so that we can have the best science and the best research that is available to us from the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine and others to make sure that we get better food, better quality of food for our kids in school, and updating the nutritional standards, which have not been updated in almost 30 years. And a lot has changed in 30 years.

So I just want your assurances that you will be working with us closely as we reauthorize this bill to give us the best possible science that we can get to apply to this.

Mr. SHAH. Thank you. I absolutely can offer that assurance. As you note, the science community, whether on the economic research side or the agricultural research side, has a tremendous amount to offer through this reauthorization and to support those programs.

I also thank you for mentioning the linkages to the health community and the health research community, where a lot of that work does also take place. And one of my aspirations is to help build those bridges in an effective way to further our collective goals.

With respect to updating the standards, I hope to be able to work with members of the Committee to understand how to most effectively do that with a real science-based approach. So, thank you, and absolutely.

Chairman HARKIN. You bet. Thank you very much, Dr. Shah.

Now, I will yield to Senator Lugar.

Senator LUGAR. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My comments and questions are directed to Mr. Tonsager and Dr. Shah. They arise from a specific recommendation recently by the head of EPA taking a look at corn ethanol and its environmental effects. The predicament is this.

For many years, starting with President Bush, now with President Obama, presidents and everyone else have said we have a dependence upon imported oil, which is dangerous in terms of our strategic position in the world. Agriculture stepped forward and

said that, Mr. President, in both cases, we can be helpful. And the first attempt was with corn ethanol. And we have talked, all of us, about cellulosic ethanol for the last 10 years; although, the past administration did not move very rapidly in terms of research funds; had them appropriated by all of this, but simply could not get through the bureaucracy. I hope that will not be case with the current administration and the Department of Energy.

But my point currently is that on top of all of this, EPA has come up with a strange ruling that the 20 percent benefit that would come from ethanol as opposed to the regular gasoline formulations is not going to be met because corn that otherwise would have been available for foreign countries to feed people would not be available to them because it is being used for corn ethanol in the United States. Therefore, these foreign countries will chop down trees, will do environmentally unsatisfactory things, all based upon the supposition that corn would not be exported to them, which, on the face of this, is ridiculous.

The point that I am hopeful you are able to make at USDA is that American agriculture can rise in productivity to meet whatever challenges there are in an export market. As a corn farmer, I know our livelihood is dependent, for years, on our ability to export. We are desirous of feeding the world if we can, but the world is so bollixed up in terms of the rural trade system to begin with, even moving the corn is very difficult.

But to counter back that, somehow or other, we are responsible as corn farmers for the chopping down of the trees of Brazil or anyplace else is, on the face of it, ludicrous. And I make that comment, I suppose, with some reserve because I found the whole—this is outrageous.

Here we are attempting in agriculture, with biofuels, to make a difference in national security, and having some success, and also having many obstacles, given the ups and downs of the price of oil, the differentials and so forth in the markets. And the reliance upon biofuels is well taken, and we have already mandated that in legislation we passed in 2007, but without the research, we have a few thousand gallons of it somewhere. This is not a replacement in terms of the hundreds of billions of gallons that we are supposed to be coming forward with.

Now, what I would ask either of you is, first of all, I presume your cognizant of the problem, the EPA ruling most recently. And, second, what can we do at USDA so that, first of all, the rest of the government is informed as to what actually happens in terms of productivity and agriculture; our desire to feed, our desire also to provide energy for our country to displace imported oil?

I think these are vital objectives.

Mr. Tonsager, do you have a comment? And then Dr. Shah.

Mr. TONSAGER. I cannot speak to the science aspects of this. I have not read the ruling or the summary of the ruling at this time. But I can speak to the economic aspects of rural America because I have been intimately involved with ethanol for many years, of course, as you have, Senator.

From my perspective, what I want to see us do is make sure we build an economically sustainable, alternative energy system, including corn-based ethanol, cellulosic ethanol, biofuels, as broadly

and as logically and sensibly as we can. Even now during my time at the Farm Credit administration, I get to see the economic challenges that it is currently faced with as a system, and I still believe greatly in the economic opportunities associated with that. And I can assure you, our agency will be heavily involved in working with the biofuels industry from the economic perspective.

Senator LUGAR. Great.

Dr. Shah?

Mr. SHAH. Thank you. I, too, am aware of the problem, perhaps more from the science and production aspects than from the rural economic aspects. And so, I look forward to working with my colleagues because I think this is the kind of problem that requires that cooperation.

Meeting the renewable fuel targets broadly, of course, will require increased contributions from Agriculture. I am glad to hear the way you framed the comments about cellulosic technology. There clearly are research opportunities to help develop new technologies that will power second and third-generation biofuels to help fill the gaps, and what people estimate will be the gaps, on the renewable fuel targets.

I think that will require a more focused and results-oriented approach with the research funding and also public/private partnerships since some of the best research on those programs might be happening in other parts of the world and in other sectors outside of the pure public sector or university system.

With respect to agriculture productivity, I think you are absolutely right. I was visiting a program at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and they are getting significant yield improvements on experimental stations, and doing it with a real focus on nitrogen and water-use efficiency. So without being very responsible on the use of inputs and being more precision oriented in their production, they are getting significant yield improvements. That seems to me like the kind of research that will enable a broader and more successful future in this area, and it ought to be supported broadly where it is being done very well.

Senator LUGAR. Thank you, sir.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Senator Lugar.

Senator Thune also has another engagement he has to leave for, but I wanted to recognize him for the purposes of a statement and other things right now.

Senator Thune.

Senator THUNE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to get in the way. I know you have other people who have been waiting here.

I want to associate myself with the comments from the Senator from Indiana with regard to that issue. I absolutely agree with everything you said.

I do want to thank all our nominees for their willingness to serve. We look forward to working with each of you in your new positions. This is an important time for agriculture. I particularly want to recognize a fellow South Dakotan, Dallas Tonsager.

Congratulations to you, Dallas. He is someone I have worked with for a long time. He has held a number of important positions

in our state that give him great experience for this job. And most importantly, he is a farmer, so he relates, I think, to the day-to-day challenges that we face in agriculture.

So I would like to submit a statement, if I could, for the record, Mr. Chairman. But I do want to recognize our noms, thank them for their service, and look forward to working with each of you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Hon. John Thune can be found on page 32 in the appendix.]

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Senator Thune.

Now, I will turn to Senator Casey.

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 want to thank each and all of the nominees for your willingness to serve, your commitment to public service, and that of your families. That is one of the reasons why Chairman Harkin and other chairmen in the Senate recognize family members, is because we know when you make a commitment to public service, you do not do it alone, and that commitment is shared by your family. So we are grateful for that.

I, like many members of this committee, look forward to getting Department of Agriculture, the Department itself I should say, fully staffed so the Department can continue working on so many of the issues we are here to discuss today.

The nominees before the Committee today will be in charge of agencies and missionaries that are critical to families struggling to make a living in rural Pennsylvania, as well as rural America. For our farmers, that means, unfortunately, in this economy, dropping prices and other challenges they have in their lives; the affordability of risk-management loans and tools to protect farmers from disasters; and for families living in rural communities across Pennsylvania and across the country, it means installing broadband service throughout a state like ours, as well as the country. We need upgrades to rural hospitals, keeping country roads and sewer systems operating, and other types of rural development. So we all know that agriculture itself is not immune to the global and national economic crisis.

We have the opportunity at hearings like this to be able to associate ourselves more directly with witnesses. And I was pleased that Senator Cantwell was able to provide that connection to Dr. Shah. I also want to make a connection, and I wanted to do it in my time. I did not want to have the Committee's time used for this because it is my preference to do this.

So, Dr. Shah, I want the record to reflect that you have two degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, the Wharton School and the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine, two very challenging assignments to get degrees from both of those institutions. So we are grateful. And I know you also helped Governor Rendell in his transition. He has had several good years as our Governor, and I know you were part of that early work. Let me start with you not only for that reason, but that connection helps.

I wanted to talk to you about, just for a moment in the limited time we have, dairy farmers. We have had a terrible problem in our state, where so many dairy farmers have lost not just income; they have lost their livelihood, destroyed, hundred and hundreds, year after year.

One of the areas of responsibility that you would have upon confirmation is the Economic Research Service as well as the National Agricultural Statistical Service, and you made reference in your statement to both, I believe, or at least one.

These two agencies could help us calculate the reimbursement to dairy farmers for problems we had a couple of years ago, in particular, 2006–2007, and the milk powder reporting problems that cost dairy farmers millions of dollars.

Is there anything you can say about that, just parenthetically, by way of a statement on the record, to ask you to work with us on this challenge, as well as your colleagues, because it is a problem I know that Secretary Vilsack is well aware of, the general challenge that dairy farmers have.

But, in particular, is there anything you can say about it today or supplement the record?

Mr. SHAH. Well, thank you for your comment and your kind additional introduction. I have a lot of faith and support from Pennsylvania, and I love spending a lot of time there. And I spent a lot of time there because school took me a while.

I do think I would like to follow up on that very specifically with your staff and with your office.

Senator CASEY. OK.

Mr. SHAH. It is clear the ERS and NASS both contribute to that, and there are, perhaps, other resources within the research portfolios that could both retrospectively look at that and make those calculations as you have defined, but also identify research priorities that can be supportive of that general industry, both in Pennsylvania and in other places. And so, I have done more work on productivity and production in that area, but look forward to learning more about that specific issue with you and your team.

Senator CASEY. Thanks very much. And I hope someday, you are able to move back to Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHAH. Thank you.

Senator CASEY. To live and to pay taxes and all.

[Laughter.]

Senator CASEY. We are grateful. Thank you, Doctor.

I know I only have very limited time. Maybe I will submit this question for the record just for Mr. Tonsager.

Senator CASEY. The question pertains to not just rural development, more broadly, but, in particular, strategies that I know you have thought about and will be able to implement to get targeted economic assistance or economic revitalization assistance. I know a good bit of that is in the Recovery and Reinvestment Act, but I just wanted to put that on your plate even though I am out of time. Maybe we will submit it for the record, so you could provide the Committee with an answer.

Thank you very much.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you, Senator Casey.

Senator Cochran.

STATEMENT OF HON. THAD COCHRAN, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Senator COCHRAN. Mr. Chairman, thank you. Let me join you and others in congratulating this impressive panel of nominees to serve in very important, high positions in the Department of Agriculture. I have been impressed with the comments that I have heard today from our witnesses, and I am glad to have an opportunity to personally congratulate you on your nominations, and assure you that we want to partner with you in helping to identify ways to help sustain the economic vitality of farms and ranches across America, and also help ensure that we remain competitive in the international marketplace.

So much of what our farmers and ranchers produce, products that come from our farms, our sold in the international marketplace. I know that is particularly true in some of the traditional southern crops and other activities, even agricultural activities. And we are also involved in competition from other countries who are competing with us for new markets and to deal with the challenges of having not only nutritious and sound products to sell, but also making sure that they are priced at a competitive level.

So I am here just to wish you well.

I was very impressed reading the background of Mr. Tonsager. You have, obviously, had a tremendous amount of personal experience, and your educational background certainly seems to me to make you an ideal person to be selected to serve in this important position. So we look forward to working with you.

Krysta Harden I have known for a good while. Her husband, Charles, and I got to know each other when I was a member of the House of Representatives, and that seems like a long, long time ago when our paths would cross in the House of Representatives. But I am confident you have the ability and the background. Your experience here working in the Senate, as well as in the House, makes it very clear to me that you are an excellent choice to be Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, and I look forward to a close working relationship during your service at the Department.

Pearlie Reed is a name that has been well known down in the south for a good while. He is from our neighboring state of Arkansas, and he has a lot of friends in Mississippi, and he is highly regarded. And I am glad to be here today to welcome you and to compliment you on your previous service. Obviously, you have done a good job; people know about it. And you have been asked and called on to serve again at the Department, and we appreciate your willingness to do that and wish you well.

Dr. Shah, I was quite impressed with your background and your testimony today. I am very impressed with the challenges that you understand we have in the area of research, education and economics. You will come to know, if you do not already have these pieces of information, that our state is very heavily engaged in agricultural research, not only the land-grant university assets and resources we have, but a lot of individual targeted research programs are located in our state. Aquaculture is one of them, but in many other areas, too, we are heavily engaged. And so, I know our paths will cross often, and I look forward to getting to know you better. And I congratulate on your selection and wish you well. I hope you

derive a great deal of satisfaction in the opportunities you will have at the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman HARKIN. Thank you very much, Senator Cochran.

Senator Klobuchar, I would just note that a roll-call vote was just called at 11:53.

Senator Klobuchar.

STATEMENT OF HON. AMY KLOBUCHAR, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Senator KLOBUCHAR. OK. I think I can make it.

Well, congratulations to all of you. I did notice, Dr. Shah, that when Senator Casey was talking about all of your credentials, your daughter woke up, so she must have a good idea for that or for Pennsylvania.

I wanted to talk a little bit about, first of all, the H1N1 virus. Just so you know, our state, the make up of our agriculture, we are No. 1 in the country for turkeys, little did you know; No. 3 for hogs. We, obviously, have a lot of crops and a very vibrant alternative energy economy. We have an aggressive renewable electricity standard, 25 percent by 2025, so we have done a lot with wind and solar in our rural areas as well as biofuels. We are one of the leading states with biofuels.

So we have a pretty well-rounded agricultural sector, in addition to food processing with Schwans and food companies, General Mills. We are ninth in the country for Fortune 500 companies. So we have a broad economy in our state.

But one of the things that has been very damaging for our pork producers has been the name, which I will not say, of the flu, which we call the H1N1 flu. And I wonder, Ms. Harden, with your role with congressional relations, if you could talk a little bit about how we can stop this from happening again, where, one—and maybe, Dr. Shah, you can confirm this, the fact that you cannot get this flu from eating bacon, which is what I served this morning at my Minnesota breakfast to prove the point——

Ms. HARDEN. Good for you.

Senator KLOBUCHAR [continuing]. Or from any kind of pork.

But how do we stop—the same thing happened to peppers with the salmonella scare, when it turned out it was peppers. And the tomato industry got in trouble when it was not tomatoes.

Could you please comment on that?

Ms. HARDEN. Well, I think if I had the perfect answer, I would be pretty rich and not need to go to the USDA. But I agree that we need to get our arms around it very quickly and work very aggressively to make sure education is out there and that research is made aware, and the facts.

Obviously, the other name, the common name, is an easy buzz word that the press glommed on to. I think the president and the secretary should be commended, as well as the members of this committee and Members of Congress, to call it by its official name and encourage the press to do so, and the public. But it was a little late it seems because the name had stuck.

So I think we do have to be much more aggressive in getting the word out, making sure that all of you have the information first-

hand in what is going on, quickly, so you can get the word out to your press and your states and work very aggressively to make sure we are getting the education and the word out there through our research department and our nutrition department as well.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. OK.

Dr. Shah?

Mr. SHAH. Well, thank you. I agree with your sentiments and would just add that I think the principle of strong science underpinning the communications statements we make on issues like this is critically important.

In this particular case, I just in Seattle got a lot of the information around this particular issue from CDC briefings. And I think one of the opportunities will be building very strong linkages between the agricultural research communities and the CDC and other agencies like that, so that if more people are watching and learning from that kind of a vehicle, that they are communicating the types of things that are consistent with sound, interagency science. So I think building those linkages becomes very important to underpinning a strong communication strategy, but the science seems very clear.

I would also just add, in terms of your comments about Minnesota, that I have had the opportunity to work with great crop scientists, and wheat and other crops, and also with economic modeling teams at the university there. And they really are outstanding and doing some of the best work in the world on those issues.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. And you mentioned Norman Borlaug, who did a lot——

Mr. SHAH. Of course.

Senator KLOBUCHAR [continuing]. Of his work at the University of Minnesota and some work in Iowa as well.

The other thing, just along these lines of some of the cutting-edge work in Minnesota, is the University of Minnesota's ability to catch the cause of a lot of the problems we have had with food safety, whether it was the University of Minnesota that traced it and the Minnesota health department did a peanut issue. Then, we also had the salmonella I just mentioned from the peppers. That was also traced by the Minnesota group.

I do not want to spend our time right now talking about that, but I hope you will look into that model. Senator Durbin and I and others, on a bipartisan basis, have worked on this food safety bill. And we are going to be hoping to have, as part of that, some of these regional models of how to catch these things sooner where the problems arise, as well as, you know, the USDA has done some good work with food safety. And we have this problem with the FDA, and we need to figure out how to merge these two systems. So I just wanted to put that on your radar screen.

Just one last question, Mr. Tonsager, on the broadband. You were asked about the broadband and the speed of getting the broadband out.

Can you talk about how you are going to coordinate with the other program coming out of Commerce with those broadband grants, and if you have talked about that yet, from your perch, with rural development?

Mr. TONSAGER. Of course, until we get the opportunity to go there and learn a little more, it will be difficult. I do have personal relationships with people involved with the NTIA, working, and so I am hopeful that that will work well with them. And I am very excited about the opportunity that, perhaps, Jonathan Adelstein will get to join me at the RUS. Jonathan's background——

Senator KLOBUCHAR. I know him.

Mr. TONSAGER [continuing]. Old friend of mine, Jonathan as well, that I know he brings great capacity to that area.

I would like to get into the dialog quite a ways before really saying how we might do it. It just strikes me that there are similarities to other kinds of things we have done in the past, especially in the other utility programs, about affordability for people in more remote areas that might be more economically challenged.

So, from my perspective, I will probably start with that in the discussion, how do we make it affordable to people as well, not just available, but so they can use it well. And I think that is an important aspect to bring to it.

But I believe that there is a great opportunity to coordinate with Commerce and with the NTIA, and working together with that. I think Secretary Vilsack has been actively engaged in dialogs regarding communications, from what I have heard, so I am excited that we can work closely with the other entity that has received resources. But I do know that the service to the rural areas is the mission of our deed, and I want to make sure that we are fully engaged with that as quickly as possible.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you. Because Senator Thune and I, and a few others here, I think, serve on both Agriculture and Commerce, so we will be able to be the intersection of making sure these programs are coordinated.

Mr. TONSAGER. I am sure we have to get service to Murdo, South Dakota before John will be particularly happy.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. All right. I could give you some even smaller towns in Minnesota. Thank you very much.

Congratulations to all of you.

Chairman HARKIN. Well, listen, thank you all very much for all of your past things that you have done on behalf of agriculture and health in America. Congratulations on your appointments. We look forward to working with you.

Again, I want to join with what Senator Casey said. When you enter public life like this, it is a family affair; no doubt about it. Spouses and families are involved in this in many ways, and so I want to thank all your family members.

Dr. Shah, I see your dad has got the 8–month-old granddaughter in his arms back there. I have an 8–month-old granddaughter, so it appeals to me very much.

But thank you all for being willing to serve. We look forward to working with you.

I would just state for the record that we would like to have all written questions from members of the Committee in by 5 this afternoon so that we can get those questions to you and you could respond. And, hopefully, we will be able to report your names out of the Committee rapidly and get you down to work as soon as possible.

With that, if there are no further questions, we have got to go vote. Thank you very much. The Committee will stand adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:03 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

MAY 7, 2009

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry

10:30 am, May 7, 2009

Dirksen 106

SENATOR THUNE

OPENING STATEMENT:

First, I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for holding a timely hearing on four very important positions within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

I would also like to than today's nominees for their willingness to serve.

In particular, I'd like to welcome a fellow South Dakotan, Dallas Tonsager, to the Committee today.

Dallas has had a long career of public service and has extensive first-hand knowledge of the agriculture community.

As a former State Director for Rural Development, a current board member of the Farm Credit Administration, and a South Dakota farmer, you will bring a unique perspective to office of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development

Dallas, I congratulate you on your nomination and look forward to working with you once again on issues important to American agriculture.

The nominees before the committee are coming to the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a historic time in American agriculture.

Our national agriculture landscape is dramatically changing. Our fields no longer produce food, feed and fiber, but energy as well.

Ethanol plants and wind farms are intermixed with rural communities across the country.

Agriculture research is increasingly focused on renewable energy development from turning animal waste into biogas to enzymes that turn switch grass into fuel.

With increasing demands on agriculture, comes increasing demands on our federal programs from research, to conservation, to rural development.

The 2008 Farm Bill is an important piece of legislation that will strengthen our federal agriculture programs to meet the growing challenges facing our producers and rural communities.

I trust that each of you will work closely with Congress and these committees as the final regulations are drafted under the new farm bill.

Again, I thank the Chairman for this hearing and look forward to working with each of you in your new roles.

TESTIMONY OF KRYSTA HARDEN
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
May 7, 2009

It is with pride and pleasure that I am here today before the members of the Senate Agriculture Committee as the nominee for Assistant Secretary of Congressional Relations. Senator Chambliss, thank you for your introduction. I never would have thought years ago when we first met that either one of us would be in this position. It is truly an honor to have you introduce me to the Committee. I appreciate your leadership and friendship.

And, thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been a pleasure to work with you on many issues impacting agriculture. I enjoyed my years working with soybean growers, many of them from your state. I learned a great deal about agriculture and conservation from you and your constituents.

Mr. Chairman, Senator Chambliss, and the members of the Committee, I come before you with an open mind and a willingness to work with each and every one of you. I will be responsive to your requests and respectful of your concerns and questions.

And, while I will not always have the answers you seek, and certainly your positions on issues may not match those of USDA leadership, I will be fair, honest, and straightforward in my dealings with you and your staff.

I know that successful relationships are two way. There must be open communication, a sharing of information, and trust between parties. If confirmed, I pledge to do my part in making sure that happens. I truly look forward to strengthening old relationships and building new ones.

As the Committee considers my nomination for this position, I hope you will take into account my record, experiences, and commitment of service to the Congress as well as the functions and mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

As the daughter of a Georgia farm family, I have a strong appreciation for American agriculture. I know first-hand the challenges that farmers and ranchers face trying to make a living in today's tough economic climate. I also know that those who work the land are diligent and innovative enough to continue to advance American agriculture.

My almost twelve years as a staffer on Capitol Hill, gives me a clear understanding of the pressures and demands of your jobs. I know the value of prompt attention to your questions and concerns and the importance of listening to and learning about each of your state's unique situations.

I also believe that my experience in the private sector has also helped prepare me for this role. I have worked with landowners from every state and territory. I have traveled extensively and seen the variety and diversity of agriculture. I have been involved in a

wide range of issues including conservation, renewable energy, nutrition, research, and forestry. I look forward to working with each of you to make sure our policies are forward thinking and keep American agriculture competitive.

And, I am keenly aware of the many challenges we face, including implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill, getting economic recovery dollars on the ground, addressing lasting implications of recent disasters, defining agriculture's role in climate change, reauthorizing the Child Nutrition Act—the list goes on and on.

I feel confident that my upbringing, my experience, and my passion for the land and those who work the land everyday make me right for this position.

I look forward to assisting Secretary Vilsack with his strong commitment to civil rights at the Department. It is crucial that our programs and policies are fair, open for full participation, and provide service to all constituencies. If confirmed, I pledge to have an open door. I will do all that I can to ensure that everyone has access to the same information and that discrimination in any form is not tolerated.

I know that it is totally unlikely I will ever win an Academy Award for anything—I'm not an actor, you know—so I hope you will allow me just a few of minutes to thank a couple of people who are responsible for me being here today.

Certainly, the first person is President Obama who has nominated me for this position and Secretary Vilsack who is allowing me to serve in this role.

I also want to thank my husband Charles Hatcher who taught me so many things including that public service is an honor and a privilege and should never be abused or taken for granted; that working in a bi-partisan manner is a tradition in agriculture; and that compromise can be a good thing. Thank you, Charles, for your important lessons, love, and support.

I also want to thank my wonderful parents Jamie and Jimmy Harden at home in Camilla, Georgia and my sister JaBra Harden Fuller who is here today. Thank you for always being there for me – for guiding me, supporting me and loving me.

I would like to recognize three special young boys who are taking the day off from school to be with me for this important hearing….our God son Henry Mitchell and his brothers Campbell and Porter.

And finally, thank you to some folks who have helped shape my professional life, first friends and colleagues on and off Capitol Hill-many are in the room today; my colleagues at Gordley Associates, and certainly the leaders and staff of the National Association of Conservation Districts where I have spent the last five years of my career. I also want to recognize Steve Robinson, the president of NACD, who is here today from Ohio. Thank all you for your help and support.

Mr. Chairman and Senator Chambliss, if recommended by the Committee and confirmed by the Senate, I pledge to serve as Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations with honor and respect. I look forward to working with each of you.

Testimony of Pearlie S. Reed
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
May 7, 2009

Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Chambliss, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, I am pleased to have this opportunity to appear before you today. I would like to thank Senator Lincoln, from the great State of Arkansas, for her kind introduction. I would like to thank all of those who are responsible for my success in life, especially my family and the many great men and women who I served with during my career at USDA. I thank President Obama and Secretary Vilsack for their vote of confidence, manifested in my nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration.

Secretary Vilsack has shared with me his vision for USDA. I understand and believe in what he would like to accomplish. If confirmed, I will be 100 percent committed to ensuring that the management apparatus of the Department is focused on the efficient and effective delivery of programs and services USDA wide.

I have worked and lived in four of the major regions of our great country – the South, East, Midwest, and West. I have had two tours of duty at USDA Headquarters in Washington, DC. During my career in and out of government I have seen all sides of USDA, the excellent, the good, the bad and the ugly. I have had a remarkable career -- rising from a Grade GS- 03 Soil Conservation Aid to Chief of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Also, from 1997 to 1998, I served as Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration, the position I am now being nominated for.

I have also served as State Conservationist for Maryland and California. I took advantage of training, self development, and other opportunities made available by USDA. I do not know of any other organization where I could have accomplished more. And, because of these opportunities and my background, I feel that I am uniquely qualified to help USDA and, if confirmed, I will work tirelessly with Secretary Vilsack, his leadership team, the Congress, and stakeholders to improve USDA.

I fully understand the complexity of the Department of Agriculture. That complexity is compounded by the massive structure of the USDA field based agencies, and the system of state and county committees, commissions, and boards. The management of the Department must ensure that the delivery of programs and services impacted by this system is made available to all who qualify. It is with this in mind that I want to emphasize my commitment to resolving outstanding civil rights claims and any discriminatory employment practices. Secretary Vilsack has strongly stated his commitment to these issues and, if confirmed, I too, pledge to not tolerate discrimination in any form at USDA. I believe that, if we work together, many of the challenges we currently face can be corrected.

The management agenda of the Department must include an aggressive investment in its human capitol. The selection, development, and retention of top talent are paramount. If confirmed, I will use all authorities available to USDA to pursue excellence in human resources management.

In addition, I believe that all Departmental Administration areas are important. If confirmed, I will ensure that Departmental Administration is providing the services needed to underpin the effective and efficient delivery of USDA programs and services.

I will conclude by once again thanking President Obama and Secretary Vilsack for their confidence in me and also thank you - Mr. Chairman, Senator Chambliss, and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to appear before you today.

TESTIMONY OF RAJIV J. SHAH, OF WASHINGTON STATE, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MAY 7, 2009

Mr. Chairman, Senator Chambliss, members of the Committee, I am honored to be nominated by President Obama to the position of Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics and Chief Scientist. I appreciate Secretary Vilsack's confidence in me and his invitation to join his leadership team at the Department of Agriculture. I want to thank Senator Cantwell for her generous introduction and for her passion and commitment to the people of Washington State. Also, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce my wife, Shivam Mallick Shah, and our two children – Sajan and Amna – who turn four and one this summer and are with us today.

I am excited by the opportunity to lead the research portfolios of the Department of Agriculture at a time when this work touches so many of our national challenges -- agricultural production, nutrition and food safety, energy independence and the sustainability of our natural resources.

I also recognize the responsibilities of serving as the Chief Scientist. President Obama has often emphasized his commitment to ensure decision-making is based on scientific evidence, and if confirmed I will seek to help carry out that mandate.

As the founding director of the agriculture program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, I have had the opportunity to meet agricultural scientists from around the world and I have drawn inspiration from many of them. One of my heroes is Dr. Norman Borlaug – the only agricultural scientist to win the Nobel Peace Prize for his use of science to help prevent widespread starvation. His life is a testament to the fact that effective agricultural research, coupled with an absolute determination to make the world a better place, can help address our most pressing challenges.

These challenges have been stated clearly by Secretary Vilsack.

Food production must meet the needs of a world population that will exceed 9 billion by 2050. And it must do so while taking into account a warming planet and the need to be efficient in the use of water, nitrogen and other key inputs.

Agriculture has the potential to provide a sustainable source of energy at a time when the President, the Secretary and members of this committee have highlighted the need for our nation to work toward energy independence. Second and third generation biofuels and advanced biomass strategies are critical to this task. Agriculture and agroforestry may also have opportunities to participate the administration's efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Effective agricultural research could help identify and quantify those opportunities.

And Americans are increasingly aware of the critical links between agriculture and human health. All Americans rely on strong agricultural science as it relates to the safety of our food supply, protection against animal diseases, including zoonotic diseases that transmit from animals to humans, and the critical role that a healthy, nutritious diet can play in preempting and preventing many of the chronic

diseases affecting Americans – diseases like obesity, diabetes, and hypertension. We can and should do more to identify these links, connect to the health community, and work to ensure every American can identify and access a healthy diet.

Last year an additional nearly one hundred million people entered into extreme poverty – resulting in nearly one billion people going hungry. President Obama has called for our agricultural research, education and aid institutions to work together to demonstrate American leadership in preventing global hunger. If confirmed, I will seek to contribute to this goal.

With the founding of the land grant university system in 1862 and the critically important 1890 schools, the United States set the foundation for becoming the world leader in agricultural production based on the strength of its agricultural research. By linking research, education and extension, these schools continue to innovate and provide needed solutions for rural communities and American consumers. The Agricultural Research Service, which developed the original method for large scale production of penicillin (and did so in time for its use during World War II), also has a storied history.

Last year this committee laid the groundwork for taking this leadership into the future by creating the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Establishing a new National Institute is a unique opportunity to create a strategic, focused and result-oriented research enterprise that can help bring improved agricultural research to bear in serving our nation's food, health and energy needs. I believe there are important lessons to be learned from the National Institutes of Health and other federal research efforts that could inform this task. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Committee to implement this important provision of the Farm Bill.

The Economic Research Service, National Agricultural Statistical Services and National Agricultural Libraries also represent critical assets in any effort to make research and policy relevant to American producers and consumers. In creating the Agricultural Development program at the Gates Foundation, I became a regular consumer of the work of these agencies.

I share Secretary Vilsack's commitment to addressing civil rights concerns as a top priority throughout the Department. I also share the Secretary's aspiration to modernize the Department's technology platforms. If confirmed, I hope to use modern information and communication technologies to improve the transparency, effectiveness and outcomes of the science and research portfolios.

I became a medical doctor to care for and hopefully heal individuals. I quickly became absorbed in broader issues of public health and economics as I felt that was a path to serve larger populations. That path has given me the opportunity to work with children on obesity issues in the Philadelphia schools, to help children in poor countries gain access to life-saving immunizations, and, most recently, allowed me to launch an agricultural development program to address the global crisis of extreme hunger and rural poverty.

In each area, I have tried to learn from others, to be pragmatic and fact-based in the pursuit of solutions, and stay focused on the goal of making a difference in people's lives. If confirmed, I intend to bring that same spirit of learning, energy for service and commitment to outcome to this position.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, the Ranking Member, and the Committee for the opportunity to appear before you today. I again want to thank President Obama and Secretary Vilsack for their confidence in me to lead this important work. Finally, I want to thank my wife Shivam whose willingness to support me in this endeavor has allowed me to embrace this important new challenge.

TESTIMONY OF THE HONORABLE DALLAS P. TONSAGER

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

May 7, 2009

Thank you, Chairman Harkin, Senator Chambliss, and members of the Committee. It is a privilege to sit before the committee which continues to provide the leadership and foresight for the benefit of all of agriculture and rural America. Specifically, I want to acknowledge your leadership Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Chambliss and should I be confirmed, I will enjoy working with you to improve the quality of life for rural Americans.

I also want to thank Congresswoman Herseth-Sandlin for her kind introduction today. I have learned a great deal about how to help rural communities by watching Congresswoman Herseth-Sandlin leadership in South Dakota.

It is an honor to appear before you today as President Obama's choice to be the next Under Secretary of Rural Development at the United States Department of Agriculture. Seated behind me, I am proud to be joined here today by my son, Keith and his wife, Lindsey; my son, Joshua; and my wife, Sharon, without whom I could not have pursued my passion of advancing the cause of Americans who reside in our small towns and rural communities. I am glad my family is here to share this moment with me.

It is indeed a great honor and privilege to be selected by President Obama to carry out his vision for the revitalization of rural America. I am excited by the opportunity to serve with Secretary Vilsack who is a strong advocate for America's agricultural producers and defender of rural residents throughout this country. My enthusiasm is tempered only by the realization of the challenges rural Americans face every day with lost jobs, disappearing essential services, outmigration, and crumbling infrastructure. We find ourselves in difficult times. President Obama's vision for America is aggressive and will take commitment, sacrifice and perseverance to be successful. I want the members of this committee to know that should you confirm me, I will accept this responsibility.

Mr. Chairman, I am not telling you or the members of this committee anything you do not already recognize. You know all too well the challenges we face in addressing the needs of the 50 million Americans residing in our small towns and rural communities. The farm bill, written by this committee and passed last year, and the stimulus package passed earlier this year, provide the foundation and funding for many of the President's initiatives.

The President has rolled out an appropriately ambitious and multi-faceted plan to stimulate the faltering economy. In the area of rural economic development, the President's vision focuses on several important goals.

- First and foremost, the funding provided in the stimulus package to Rural Development will be allocated as quickly as possible at the same time ensuring that it is awarded in a fair, transparent, and responsible manner.

- Renewable energy is not only critically important for the rural economy, it is important for the entire U.S. economy and national security. The burgeoning renewable energy industries will grow the U.S. economy, make the U.S. more energy independent, and help address climate change. USDA Rural Development has a number of programs to advance renewable technologies that will bring skilled jobs to rural communities.

- Broadband access to rural residents is also a key to bringing important services to rural residents and providing skilled jobs. Thanks to this committee's insistence, the stimulus package provided significant additional funding for the deployment of broadband access. I know that this is an important issue for members of this committee.

In all of these areas, I pledge to work with you and your staffs to ensure that we identify the communities with the greatest need.

Of course, Rural Development has many other programs that will aid rural residents and their communities so that they can thrive and prosper. Rural Development has a strong portfolio of housing, community facility, and business and utility programs that provide the building blocks for community development.

Agriculture and rural communities are dependent upon one another. It is my experience that farmer-owned, value-added enterprises can breathe new life into small towns and communities. Rural Development's Cooperative Services and the Value-Added programs provide agricultural producers the tools to work together to receive the maximum value from their land and their labor and bring jobs to a community. It takes teamwork and cooperation to be successful, especially within rural development. If confirmed, I will work to bring all parties to the table - community leaders, planning districts, council of governments, cooperative development centers, community development corporations, land grant universities, and others - to develop projects and successful development strategies.

As a former State Director for Rural Development, I know and have worked with the employees of USDA's Rural Development and have great respect for the work they do and their dedication to the mission of rural economic development. If confirmed, I look forward to rejoining my former colleagues and together we will do our very best to find solutions to the challenges rural communities face. I will be a tireless advocate for the constituents we are all sworn to serve.

With that in mind, I also want emphasize my commitment to working to resolve any outstanding civil rights claims whether in program or employment practices. If confirmed, I will not tolerate any form of discrimination in the agencies that I will be leading, and I look forward to working with Secretary Vilsack to address this very important issue.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, as a farmer and life-long resident of a rural community, as a South Dakota Rural Development Director during the Clinton Administration, as an Executive Director for the South Dakota Value-Added Agriculture Center, and currently as a Farm Credit Administration Board Member, I have spent most of my professional, adult life in and around agriculture and rural communities. And, challenges notwithstanding, if confirmed, I look forward to rolling up my sleeves to do what I can to renew the hopes of rural Americans everywhere so that America, specifically rural America, will once again prosper.

Thank you.

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

MAY 7, 2009

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION (PUBLIC)

1. Full name (include any former names used).
Krysta Laverne Harden

2. Date and place of birth.
January 6, 1959
Camilla, Georgia

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

4. Education: List each college and graduate or professional school you have attended, including dates of attendance, degrees received, and dates degrees were granted.
Valdosta State University, 1977-1978
University of Georgia, 1978-1981
Bachelor of Journalism, 1981

5. Employment and Self-Employment Record: 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.
National Association of Conservation Districts, CEO, 2004-Present
Gordley Associates, Senior Vice President, 1993-2004
US House of Representatives-
House Agriculture Committee, Staff Director of Peanut and Tobacco Subcommittee, 1991-1993
Office of Representative Charles Hatcher (D-GA), Chief of Staff and Press Secretary 1988-1991; Legislative Director, 1985-1988; Legislative Assistant 1981-1985; Receptionist, 1981

6. 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.
None

7. Government Service: 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.
US House of Representatives-
House Agriculture Committee, Staff Director of Peanut and Tobacco Subcommittee 1991-1993

Office of Representative Charles Hatcher (D-GA), Chief of Staff and Press Secretary 1988-1991; Legislative Director, 1985-1988; Legislative Assistant 1981-1985; Receptionist, 1981

8. 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.
None

9. 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.
Georgia State Society, Member 1981-2009, President, 1992
Agribusiness Club of Washington, Member, 1993-2009
American Society of Association Executives, Member, 2004-2009

10. Published Writings: 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 issues involving agriculture, nutrition, forestry or any other matters within the jurisdiction of this Committee and the Department of Agriculture.
As CEO of the National Association of Conservation Districts, I had regular columns and articles in our member newsletters, *News and Views (columns "Grill the CEO" and "Krysta Clear" every other month from 2004-2008-see attached), Forestry Notes (see attached)* and *The Resource (column "Loud and Clear" every other month 2009- see attached).*

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?
I will sever my relationship with National Association of Conservation Districts at the time of my confirmation.

2. 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**

3. 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**

7. 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**

9. 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. **As CEO of the National Association of Conservation Districts, I have represented NACD's interests involving conservation programs and policies impacting the association and its members. Programs of interest to NACD include <u>all</u> conservation programs and cooperative forestry programs under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture**

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 Ethics and the Department of Agriculture's designated agency ethics official to indentify 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 Ethics and the Department of Agriculture's designated agency ethics official to indentify 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 17, 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 Krysta L. Harden, who has been nominated by President Obama for the position of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

We have reviewed the report and have also obtained advice from U.S. Department of Agriculture concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is a letter dated April 10, 2009, from Ms. Harden to the agency's ethics official, outlining the steps Ms. Harden will take to avoid conflicts of interest. Unless a specific date has been agreed to, the nominee must fully comply within three months of her confirmation date with any action she agreed to take in her ethics agreement.

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

Sincerely,

Robert I. Cusick
Director

Enclosures

April 10, 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 describe 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 Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, 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 organization in which I serve as officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee; and any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my position as Chief Executive Officer at the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). For the period of one year after my resignation, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which NACD 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,

Krysta L. Harden

Krysta L. Harden

SF278 (Rev. 03/2000)
5 C.F.R Part 2634
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Executive Branch Personnel PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

Form Approved
OMB No. 3209-000

Date of Appointment, Candidacy, Election or Nomination (Month, Day, Year)	Reporting Status (Check appropriate boxes)	Calendar Year Covered by Report	Termination Date (If Applicable) (Month, Day, Year)
	☐ Incumbent ☐ New Entrant, Nominee, or Candidate [X] ☐ Termination Filer		

	Last Name	First Name and Middle Initial
Reporting Individual's Name	Harden	Krysta L.
Position for Which Filing	Title of Position: Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations	Department or Agency (If Applicable): U.S. Department of Agriculture
Location of Present Office (or forwarding address)	Address (Number, Street, City, State, and ZIP Code): 509 Capitol Court NE Washington DC 20002	Telephone No. (Include Area Code): 202-547-6223
Position(s) Held with the Federal Government During the Preceding 12 Months (If Not Same as Above)	Title of Position(s) and Date(s) Held: None	
Presidential Nominees Subject to Senate Confirmation	Name of Congressional Committee Considering Nomination: Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry	Do You Intend to Create a Qualified Diversified Trust? ☐ Yes [X] No

Certification	Signature of Reporting Individual	Date (Month, Day, Year)
I CERTIFY that the statements I have made on this form and all attached schedules are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.	Krysta L. Harden	April 10, 2009
Other Review (If desired by agency)	Signature of Other Reviewer	Date (Month, Day, Year)
Agency Ethics Official's Opinion: On the basis of information contained in this report, I conclude that the filer is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (subject to any comments in the box below)	Signature of Designated Agency Ethics Official/Reviewing Official	Date (Month, Day, Year): April 10, 2009
Office of Government Ethics Use Only	Signature	Date (Month, Day, Year): 4/17/09

Comments of Reviewing Officials (If additional space is required, use the reverse side of this sheet)

(Check box if filing extension granted & indicate number of days _____) ☐

(Check box if comments are continued on the reverse side) ☐

Fee for Late Filing

Any individual who is required to file this report and does so more than 30 days after the date the report is required to be filed, or, if an extension is granted, more than 30 days after the last day of the filing extension period, shall be subject to a $200 fee.

Reporting Periods

Incumbents: The reporting period is the preceding calendar year except Part II of Schedule C and Part I of Schedule D where you must also include the filing year up to the date you file. Part II of Schedule D is not applicable.

Termination Filers: The reporting period begins at the end of the period covered by your previous filing and ends at the date of termination. Part II of Schedule D is not applicable.

Nominees, New Entrants and Candidates for President and Vice President:

Schedule A—The reporting period for income (BLOCK C) is the preceding calendar year and the current calendar year up to the date of filing. Value assets as of any date you choose that is within 31 days of the date of filing.

Schedule B—Not applicable.

Schedule C, Part I (Liabilities)—The reporting period is the preceding calendar year and the current calendar year up to any date you choose that is within 31 days of the date of filing.

Schedule C, Part II (Agreements or Arrangements)—Show any agreements or arrangements as of the date of filing.

Schedule D—The reporting period is the preceding two calendar years and the current calendar year up to the date of filing.

Agency Use Only

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APR 14 2009

5 C.F.R Part 2634
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Reporting Individual's Name: Krysta Harden

SCHEDULE A

Page Number: 1

Assets and Income — BLOCK A

For you, your spouse, and dependent children, report each asset held for investment or the production of income which had a fair market value exceeding $1,000 at the close of the reporting period, or which generated more than $200 in income during the reporting period, together with such income.

For yourself, also report the source and actual amount of earned income exceeding $200 (other than from the U.S. Government). For your spouse, report the source but not the amount of earned income of more than $1,000 (except report the actual acount of any honoraria over $200 of your spouse).

None ☐

Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period — BLOCK B

Block A	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust
Examples: Central Airlines Common				x											
Examples: Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State			x												
Examples: Kempstone Equity Fund					x								x		
Examples: IRA: Heartland 500 Index Fund							x						x		
1 Wells Fargo/IRA															
-Cash		x													
-American Funds Bl Chip Inc & Gr			x										x		
2 -American Funds Global Small Cap			x										x		
3 -American Funds Global Growth		x											x		
4 -American Funds Asset Alloc			x										x		
5 -American Funds International			x										x		
6 -American Funds Growth			x										x		

Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. — BLOCK C

Block A	Type: Dividends	Type: Rent and Royalties	Type: Interest	Type: Capital Gains	Amount: None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
Examples: Central Airlines Common	x						x										
Examples: Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State																Law Partnership Income $130,000	
Examples: Kempstone Equity Fund								x									
Examples: IRA: Heartland 500 Index Fund									x								
1 Wells Fargo/IRA																	
-Cash					x												
-American Funds Bl Chip Inc & Gr					x												
2 -American Funds Global Small Cap					x												
3 -American Funds Global Growth					x												
4 -American Funds Asset Alloc					x												
5 -American Funds International					x												
6 -American Funds Growth					x												

* This category applies only if the asset/income is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the asset/income is either that of the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

Prior Editions Cannot be Used.

5 C.F.R Part 2634
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE A continued (Use only if needed)	Page Number
Krysta Harden		2

Assets and Income — BLOCK A

Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period — BLOCK B

Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. — BLOCK C

None ☐

#	Assets and Income	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Type: Dividends	Type: Rent and Royalties	Type: Interest	Type: Capital Gains	Amount: None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
1	-American Funds Growth -Income			x										x							x												
2	TIAA-CREF 401K -TIAA Traditional Annuity		x																x				x										
3	-Cref Growth & Income		x											x							x												
4	-Cref Social Choice Equity		x											x							x												
5	-Cref International Equity		x											x							x												
6	-Cref Large-Cap Value		x											x							x												
7	-Cref Mid-Cap Value		x											x							x												
8	-Cref Equity Index		x											x							x												
9	-TIAA Real Estate		x											x							x												

* This category applies only if the asset/income is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the asset/income is either that of the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE A continued (Use only if needed)	Page Number
Krysta Harden		3

Assets and Income — BLOCK A | Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period — BLOCK B | Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. — BLOCK C

#	Assets and Income (None ☐)	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Type: Dividends	Type: Rent and Royalties	Type: Interest	Type: Capital Gains	Amount: None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) (Only if Honoraria)
1	-Cref Inflation-Linked Bond		x											x								x											
2	-Cref Bond		x											x									X										
3	IRA Wright Patman Federal Credit Union, Washington, DC (cash)		x																		x												
4	Sun Life Financial whole life policy			x													x					x											
5	National Association of Conservation Districts; Washington, DC		x																		x											unused leave based on departure 3/31/09	
6	National Association of Conservation Districts; Washington, DC																															salary $184,000	
7	National Association of Conservation Districts; Washington, DC																															anniversary bonus $5,000	
8	IRA (S) American Funds -Euro Pacific Growth Fund Class A (AEPGX)		x											x							x												
9	-Growth Fund America Class A (AGTHX)		x											x							x												

* This category applies only if the asset/income is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the asset/income is either that of the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

Prior Editions Cannot be Used.

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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE A continued (Use only if needed)	Page Number
Krysta Harden		4

Assets and Income (BLOCK A)	Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period (BLOCK B)													Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item (BLOCK C)																	
														Type				Amount													
None ☐	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Dividends	Rent and Royalties	Interest	Capital Gains	None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000*	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
1 -Investment Co America Class A (AIVSX)		x											x								x										
2 -Wash Mutl Invs Fd Class A (AWSHX)		x											x							x											
3																																
4																																
5																																
6																																
7																																
8																																
9																																

* This category applies only if the asset/income is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the asset/income is either that of the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

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Do not Complete Schedule B if you are a new entrant, nominee, Vice Presidential or Presidential Candidate

Reporting Individual's Name: Krysta Harden

SCHEDULE B

Page Number: 5

Part I: Transactions

None ☐

Report any purchase, sale, or exchange by you, your spouse, or dependent children during the reporting period of any real property, stocks, bonds, commodity futures, and other securities when the amount of the transaction exceeded $1,000. Include transactions that resulted in a loss. Do not report a transaction involving property used solely as your personal residence, or a transaction solely between you, your spouse, or dependent child. Check the "Certificate of divestiture" block to indicate sales made pursuant to a certificate of divestiture from OGE.

	Identification of Assets	Transaction Type (x)			Date (Mo., Day, Yr.)	Amount of Transaction (x)												
		Purchase	Sale	Exchange		$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Certificate of divestiture
	Example: Central Airlines Common	x			2/1/99													
1																		
2																		
3																		
4																		
5																		

* This category applies only if the underlying asset is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the underlying asset is either held by the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, use the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

Part II: Gifts, Reimbursements, and Travel Expenses

For you, your spouse and dependent children, report the source, a brief description, and the value of: (1) gifts (such as tangible items, transportation, lodging, food, or entertainment) received from one source totaling more than $260; and (2) travel-related cash reimbursements received from one source totaling more than $260. For conflicts analysis, it is helpful to indicate a basis for receipt, such as personal friend, agency approval under 5 U.S.C. § 4111 or other statutory authority, etc. For travel-related gifts and reimbursements, include travel itinerary, dates, and the nature of expenses provided. **Exclude** anything given to you by the U.S. Government, given to your agency in connection with official travel, received from relatives, received by your spouse or dependent child totally independent of their relationship to you, or provided as personal hospitality at the donor's residence. Also, for purposes of aggregating gifts to determine the total value from one source, exclude items worth $104 or less. See instructions for other exclusions.

None ☐

	Source (Name and Address)	Brief Description	Value
	Examples: Nat'l Assn. of Rock Collectors, NY, NY	Airline ticket, hotel room & meals incident to national conference 6/15/99 (personal activity unrelated to duty)	$500
	Frank Jones, San Francisco, CA	Leather briefcase (personal friend)	$300
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE C	Page Number
Krysta Harden		6

Part I: Liabilities

Report liabilities over $10,000 owed to any one creditor at any time during the reporting period by you, your spouse, or dependent children. Check the highest amount owed during the reporting period. **Exclude** a mortgage on your personal residence unless it is rented out; loans secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances; and liabilities owed to certain relatives listed in instructions. See instructions for revolving charge accounts.

None ☐

	Creditors (Name and Address)	Type of Liability	Date Incurred	Interest Rate	Term if applicable	Category of Amount or Value (x)											
						$10,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Value of Asset*
Examples:	First District Bank, Washington, DC	Mortgage on rental property, Delaware	6/1991	8%	25 yrs			x									
	John Jones, 123 J St., Washington, DC	Promissory note	1999	10 %	on demand					x							
1	Bank of America	Consolidation Loan	2008	11%	8 years		x										
2																	
3																	
4																	
5																	

* This category applies only if the liability is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the liability is that of the filer or a joint liability of the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories, as appropriate.

Part II: Agreements or Arrangements

Report your agreements or arrangements for: continuing participation in an employee benefit plan (e.g. 401k, deferred compensation); (2) continuation payment by a former employer (including severance payments); (3) leaves of absence; and (4) future employment. See instructions regarding the reporting of negotiations for any of these arrangements or benefits.

None ☐

	Status and Terms of any Agreement or Arrangement	Parties	Date
Example:	Pursuant to partnership agreement, will receive lump sum payment of capital account & partnership share calculated on service performed through 1/00.	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	7/85
1	TIAA CREF Retirement Fund - defined contribution plan (Upon my resignation, no further contributions will be made by my employer.)	National Association of Conservation Districts Washington, DC	6/04
2			
3	I will receive a lump sum payment for earned annual and sick leave within 30 days of departure. (in accordance with employment agreement)	National Association of Conservation Districts Washington, DC	3/04
4			
5			
6			

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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE D	Page Number
Krysta Harden		7

Part I: Positions Held Outside U.S. Government

Report any positions held during the applicable reporting period, whether compensated or not. Positions include but are not limited to those of an officer, director, trustee, general partner, proprietor, representative, employee, or consultant of any corporation, firm, partnership, or other business enterprise or any non-profit organization or educational institution. Exclude positions with religious, social, fraternal or political entities and those solely of an honorary nature.

None: ☐

	Organization (Name and Address)	Type of Organization	Position Held	From (Mo., Yr.)	To (Mo., Yr.)
Examples:	Nat'l Assn. of Rock Collectors, NY, NY Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	Non-profit education Law firm	President Partner	6/92 7/85	Present 1/00
1	National Association of Conservation Districts Washington, DC 20002	Non-profit association	Chief Executive Officer	3/04	present
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Part II: Compensation In Excess Of $5,000 Paid by One Source

Report sources of more than $5,000 compensation received by you or your business affiliation for services provided directly by you during any one year of the reporting period. This includes the names of clients and customers of any corporation, firm, partnership, or other business enterprise, or any other non-profit organization when you directly provided the services generating a fee or payment of more than $5,000. You need not report the U.S. Government as a source.

Do not complete this part if you are an Incumbent, Termination Filer, or Vice Presidential or Presidential Candidate

None: ☐

	Source (Name and Address)	Brief Description of Duties
Examples:	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State Metro University (client of Doe Jones & Smith), Moneytown, State	Legal services Legal services in connection with university construction
1	National Association of Conservation Districts, Washington DC	Chief Executive Officer
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION (PUBLIC)

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

   Pearlie Sylvester Reed

2. Date and place of birth.
   June 14, 1948

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

   Lesia Young Reed, Compliance Team Leader, USDA NRCS, 14Th and Independence Ave., Washington, DC 20250

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

   University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
   Attended August 1966 to January 1970
   BS Animal Husbandry, May 1970

   The American University, Washington, DC
   Attended August 1978 to May 1980
   MPA Public Administration. May 1980

5. Employment and Self-Employment Record: 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.

   From 1970 to 2003 USDA. Held the following positions: Soil conservation Technician Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, Budget and Accounting Officer, Personal Officer, Financial Manager, Budget Analyst, Administrative Officer, Deputy State Conservationist for Arkansas, State Conservationist for Maryland, State Conservationist for California, Associate Chief of the NRCS, CRAT(USDA Civil Rights Action Team) Team Leader, Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration, Chief of the NRCS, Regional Conservationist for the West. (see question 7)

   From 2005 to present - University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, consultant.

   From July 2008 to February 28, 2009 - Virginia State University, consultant.

From 2007 to present - Monsanto Company, Consultant.

From 2007 to 2008 - Oxfam America, consultant.

From 2005 to 2009 - East Arkansas Enterprise Community, consultant.

From 2005 to 2007 - National Environmental Trust, Consultant.

From 2005 to 2006 - American Farmland Trust, Consultant.

From 2005 to 2006 - T&T Management, Consultant.

From 2008 to present - Land Loss Prevention Project, Consultant.

From 2007 to present - Black Family Land Trust, Board Member.

From 2006 to present - National Association of Resource Conservation and Developments Councils, Board Member.

From 2008 to Present - P. S. R. Natural Resources Consulting, LLC, Owner.

6. 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 military service.

7. Government Service: 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.
Summer 1968 - GS-03, soil Conservation Aid, Walnut Ridge, Arkansas; USDA

April 1970 to June 1973 - GS-7 soil Conservation Technician/Soil Conservationist, Kenosha and Madison, Wisconsin; USDA

June 1973 to May 1974 - GS-09 District Conservationist, Sheboygan, Wisconsin; USDA

May 1974 to June 1977 - GS-11 Budget and Accounting Officer and Personnel Officer, Madison, Wisconsin; USDA

June 1977 to July 1978 - GS-12 Financial Manager, Washington, DC; USDA

July 1978 to November 1979 - GS-13 Budget Analyst, Washington, DC; USDA

November 1979 to June 1981 - GS-14 Administrative Officer, Washington, DC; USDA

June 1981 to January 1985 - GS-14 Deputy State Conservationist, Little Rock, Arkansas

USDA

January 1985 to July 1989 - GS14/15 State Conservationist, Annapolis, Maryland; USDA

July 1989 to December 1993 - SES, State Conservationist, Davis, California; USDA

December 1993 to December 1996 - SES, Associate Chief of the NRCS; USDA

December 1996 to March 1997 - SES, Civil Rights Action Team (CRAT) Team Leader; USDA

March 1997 to March 1998 - Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration; USDA

March 1998 to May 2002 - SES, Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); USDA

May 2002 to July 2003 - SES, Regional Conservationist for the West, Davis, California; USDA

8. 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.

USDA Honor Award 1993, 1996, 1998 and 2002.

George Washington Carver Public Service Hall of Fame Award. 1999

Presidential Distinguished Executive Rank Award 1995;

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Distinguished Alumni Award and Honorary Doctor of Law, 1988

Senior Executive Service Outstanding Ratings, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002.

9. 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.

I am a current member (only) in the following organizations:

UAPB Alumni Association;

National Association of Retired SCS/NRCS Employees;

National Association of NRCS Black Employees Association; and

Mildred Jackson High School Alumni Association.

10. Published Writings: 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 issues involving agriculture, nutrition, forestry or any other matters within the jurisdiction of this Committee and the Department of Agriculture.

None

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?

   No. But I will if confirmed.

2. 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

3. 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

7. 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

9. 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.)

None

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.

I am not aware of any.

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

May 4, 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 Pearlie S. Reed, who has been nominated by President Obama for the position of Assistant Secretary for Administration at the U.S. 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,

Don W. Fox
General Counsel

Enclosures

April 28, 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 Assistant Secretary for Administration, 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.

I currently either perform consulting services under personal service contract for, or am employed by, the following entities:

- Monsanto Company, St. Louis, Missouri (consulting);
- East Arkansas Enterprise Community, Forest City, Arkansas (consulting);
- Land Loss Prevention Project, Durham, North Carolina (consulting); and
- University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Pine Bluff, Arkansas (consulting and intermittent employment).

Upon confirmation, I will terminate my consulting contracts or employment with these entities. All compensation owed to me will be fixed before I assume the duties of the position of Assistant Secretary and, 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 the ability or willingness of any of these entities to make these payments. In addition, for a period of one year after termination of my consulting contracts or employment with 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 August 2008, my consulting contract with Oxfam America ended and all monies owed to me have been paid. Accordingly, for a period of one year after termination of my consulting contract with Oxfam America, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which Oxfam America is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

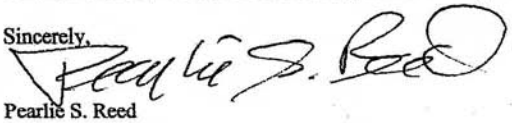
I am the sole proprietor of my consulting company, which does business as P.S.R. Natural Resources Consulting, LLC. The company has been inactive since its establishment in March 2008 and has no clients. During my appointment to the position of Assistant Secretary, P.S.R. Natural Resources Consulting, LLC, will remain dormant and will not advertise. I will not perform any services for the business, except that I will comply with any requirements involving legal filings, taxes, and fees that are necessary to maintain the business while it is in an inactive status. As Assistant Secretary, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of P.S.R. Natural Resources Consulting, LLC.

I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the Black Family Land Trust (BFLT), Durham, North Carolina. I am not compensated for my service in this position. Upon confirmation, I will terminate my service on the Board of Directors. For one year after termination of service on the Board of Directors, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which the BFLT is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

In February 2009, I resigned as a member of the Board of Directors of National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Washington, DC. I was not compensated for my service in this position. For one year after termination of service on the Board of Directors, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils 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,



Pearlie S. Reed

SF27₀ (Rev. 03/2000)
5 C.F.R Part 2634
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Executive Branch Personnel PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

Form Approved:
OMB No. 3209-0001

Date of Appointment/ Candidacy/ Election or Nomination (Month, Day, Year)	Reporting Status (Check appropriate box)	Calendar Year Covered by Report	Termination Date (If Applicable) (Month, Day, Year)
	☐ Incumbent		☐ Termination Filer
	☒ New Entrant, Nominee, or Candidate		

Reporting Individual's Name	Last Name: Reed	First Name and Middle Initial: Pearlie S.
Position for Which Filing	Title of Position: Assistant Secretary for Administration	Department or Agency (If Applicable): U.S. Department of Agriculture
Location of Present Office (or forwarding address)	Address (Number, Street, City, State, and ZIP Code): 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20250	Telephone No. (Include Area Code): (202) 720-3291
Position(s) Held with the Federal Government During the Preceding 12 Months (If Same as Above)	Title of Position(s) and Date(s) Held:	
Presidential Nominees Subject to Senate Confirmation	Name of Congressional Committee Considering Nomination: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	Do You Intend to Create a Qualified Diversified Trust? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Certification

I CERTIFY that the statements I have made on this form and all attached schedules are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Reporting Individual: Pearlie S. Reed — Date (Month, Day, Year): April 28, 2009

Other Review (If desired by agency)	Signature of Other Reviewer:	Date (Month, Day, Year):
Agency Ethics Official's Opinion: On the basis of information contained in this report, I conclude that the filer is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (subject to any comments in the box below).	Signature of Designated Agency Ethics Official/Reviewing Official: R. Hale	Date (Month, Day, Year): 4-29-2009
Office of Government Ethics Use Only	Signature: [illegible]	Date (Month, Day, Year): 5/4/09

Comments of Reviewing Official: (If additional space is required, use the reverse side of this sheet)

(Check box if filing extension granted & indicate number of days _____) ☐

RECEIVED
APR 29 2009

(Check box if comments are continued on the reverse side) ☐

Fee for Late Filing

Any individual who is required to file this report and does so more than 30 days after the date the report is required to be filed, or if an extension is granted, more than 30 days after the last day of the filing extension period, shall be subject to a $200 fee.

Reporting Periods

Incumbents: The reporting period is the preceding calendar year except Part II of Schedule C and Part I of Schedule D where you must also include the filing year up to the date you file. Part II of Schedule D is not applicable.

Termination Filers: The reporting period begins at the end of the period covered by your previous filing and ends at the date of termination. Part II of Schedule D is not applicable.

Nominees, New Entrants and Candidates for President and Vice President:

Schedule A: The reporting period for income (BLOCK C) is the preceding calendar year and the current calendar year up to the date of filing. Value assets as of any date you choose that is within 31 days of the date of filing.

Schedule B: Not applicable.

Schedule C, Part I (Liabilities): The reporting period is the preceding calendar year and the current calendar year up to any date you choose that is within 31 days of the date of filing.

Schedule C, Part II (Agreements or Arrangements): Show any agreements or arrangements as of the date of filing.

Schedule D: The reporting period is the preceding two calendar years and the current calendar year up to the date of filing.

Agency Use Only
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Reporting Individual's Name: Pearlie S. Reed

SCHEDULE A

Page Number: 2

Assets and Income (BLOCK A)

For you, your spouse, and dependent children, report each asset held for investment or the production of income which had a fair market value exceeding $1,000 at the close of the reporting period, or which generated more than $200 in income during the reporting period, together with such income.

For yourself, also report the source and actual amount of earned income exceeding $200 (other than from the U.S. Government). For your spouse, report the source but not the amount of earned income of more than $1,000 (except report the actual acount of any honoraria over $200 of your spouse).

None ☐

Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period (BLOCK B)

Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. (BLOCK C)

#	Assets and Income	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000 *	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Type: Dividends	Type: Rent and Royalties	Type: Interest	Type: Capital Gains	Amount: None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
Examples	Central Airlines Common				x												x						x										
Examples	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State			x																												Law Partnership Income $130,000	
Examples	Kempstone Equity Fund					x								x										x									
Examples	IRA: Heartland 500 Index Fund							x						x											x								
1	Monsanto Company St. Louis, MO																															Consulting $15,000.00 $36,633.61	2009 2008
2	Landloss Prevention Project Durham, NC																															Consulting $10,500.00 $49,182.66	2009 2008
3	East Arkansas Enterprise Community Forest City, AR																															Consulting $1,000.00 $34,245.00	2009 2008
4	Virginia State University Petersburg, VA																															Consulting $20,000.00 $54,905.00	2009 2008
5	University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff Pine Bluff, Arkansas																															Consulting $2,000.00 $23,339.65	2009 2008
6	Oxfam America Boston, MA																															Consulting $0.00 $16,796.65	2009 2008

* This category applies only if the asset/income is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the asset/income is either that of the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

Prior Editions Cannot be Used.

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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE A continued (Use only if needed)	Page Number
Pearlie S. Reed		3

Assets and Income (BLOCK A)	Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period (BLOCK B)													Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. (BLOCK C)																
														Type			Amount												
None ☐	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000 *	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Dividends	Rent and Royalties	Interest	Capital Gains	None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	"Other Income" (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
1 Monsanto Company St. Louis, MO Accounts Receivable through 4/30/09		X																													
2 Land Loss Prevention Project Durham, NC Accounts Receivable through 4/30/09		X																													
3 University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff Pine Bluff, Arkansas Accounts Receivable through 4/30/09		X																													
4																															
5																															
6																															
7																															
8																															
9																															

* This category applies only if the asset/income is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the asset/income is either that of the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

Prior Editions Cannot be Used.

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Do not Complete Schedule B if you are a new entrant, nominee, Vice Presidential or Presidential Candidate

Reporting Individual's Name: Pearlie S. Reed

SCHEDULE B

Page Number: 4

Part I: Transactions

None ☐

Report any purchase, sale, or exchange by you, your spouse or dependent children during the reporting period of any real property, stocks, bonds, commodity futures, and other securities when the amount of the transaction exceeded $1,000. Include transactions that resulted in a loss. Do not report a transaction involving property used solely as your personal residence, or a transaction solely between you, your spouse, or dependent child. Check the "Certificate of divestiture" block to indicate sales made pursuant to a certificate of divestiture from OGE.

	Identification of Asset	Transaction Type (x)			Date (Mo., Day, Yr.)	Amount of Transaction (x)												
		Purchase	Sale	Exchange		$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000*	Certificate of divestiture
	Example: Central Airlines Common	x			2/1/99			x										
1																		
2																		
3																		
4																		
5																		

* This category applies only if the underlying asset is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the underlying asset is either held by the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, use the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

Part II: Gifts, Reimbursements, and Travel Expenses

For you, your spouse and dependent children, report the source, a brief description, and the value of: (1) gifts (such as tangible items, transportation, lodging, food, or entertainment) received from one source totaling more than $260; and (2) travel-related cash reimbursements received from one source totaling more than $260. For conflicts analysis, it is helpful to indicate a basis for receipt, such as personal friend, agency approval under 5 U.S.C. § 4111 or other statutory authority, etc. For travel-related gifts and reimbursements, include travel itinerary, dates, and the nature of expenses provided. **Exclude** anything given by you, by the U.S. Government, given to your agency in connection with official travel, received from relatives, received by your spouse or dependent child totally independent of their relationship to you, or provided as personal hospitality at the donor's residence. Also, for purposes of aggregating gifts to determine the total value from one source, exclude items worth $114 or less. See instructions for other exclusions.

None ☐

	Source (Name and Address)	Brief Description	Value
	Examples: Nat'l Assn of Rock Collectors, NY, NY	Airline ticket, hotel room & meals incident to national conference 6/15/99 (personal activity unrelated to duty)	$500
	Frank Jones, San Francisco, CA	Leather briefcase (personal friend)	$300
1			
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3			
4			
5			

Prior Editions Cannot Be Used.

SF 278 (Rev. 03/2000)
5 C.F.R Part 2634
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Reporting Individual's Name: Pearlie S. Reed

SCHEDULE C

Page Number: 5

Part I: Liabilities

Report liabilities over $10,000 owed to any one creditor at **any time** during the reporting period by you, your spouse, or dependent children. Check the highest amount owed during the reporting period. **Exclude** a mortgage on your personal residence unless it is rented out; loans secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances; and liabilities owed to certain relatives listed in instructions. See instructions for revolving charge accounts.

None ☐

	Creditors (Name and Address)	Type of Liability	Date Incurred	Interest Rate	Term if applicable	Category of Amount or Value (x): $10,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000*
Examples:	First District Bank, Washington, DC	Mortgage on rental property, Delaware	1991	8%	25 yrs											
	John Jones, 123 J St, Washington, DC	Promissory note	1999	10 %	on demand			x		x						
1	Chase Bank	Credit Card	Various	12%	Monthly		X									
2																
3																
4																
5																

* This category applies only if the liability is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the liability is that of the filer or a joint liability of the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories, as appropriate.

Part II: Agreements or Arrangements

Report your agreements or arrangements for: (1) continuing participation in an employee benefit plan (e.g. 401k, deferred compensation); (2) continuation payment by a former employer (including severance payments); (3) leaves of absence; and (4) future employment. See instructions regarding the reporting of negotiations for any of these arrangements or benefits.

None ☒

	Status and Terms of any Agreement or Arrangement	Parties	Date
Example:	Pursuant to partnership agreement, will receive lump sum payment of capital account & partnership share calculated on service performed through 1/00.	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	7/85
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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE D	Page Number
Pearlie S. Reed		6

Part I: Positions Held Outside U.S. Government

Report any positions held during the applicable reporting period, whether compensated or not. Positions include but are not limited to those of an officer, director, trustee, general partner, proprietor, representative, employee, or consultant of any corporation, firm, partnership, or other business enterprise or any non-profit organization or educational institution. Exclude positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political entities and those solely of an honorary nature.

None ☐

	Organization (Name and Address)	Type of Organization	Position Held	From (Mo., Yr.)	To (Mo., Yr.)
Examples:	Nat'l Assn. of Rock Collectors, NY, NY Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	Non-profit education Law firm	President Partner	6/92 7/85	Present 1/00
1	Monsanto Company St. Louis, MO	Agriculture seed company	Consultant	7/07	Present
2	East Arkansas Enterprise Community Forest City, AR	Non-profit Community based Organization	Consultant	6/06	Present
3	National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils, Washington, DC	Conservation Nonprofit	Board Member	6/06	2/09
4	Land Loss Prevention Project Durham, NC	Community based Organization Non-profit	Consultant	7/07	Present
5	Black Family Land Trust Durham, NC	Conservation Nonprofit	Board Member	6/08	Present
6	P. S. R. Natural Resources Consulting, LLC Marion, AR	For profit Consulting Business	Owner	03/08	Present

Part II: Compensation In Excess Of $5,000 Paid by One Source

Report sources of more than $5,000 compensation received by you or your business affiliation for services provided directly by you during any one year of the reporting period. This includes the names of clients and customers of any corporation, firm, partnership, or other business enterprise, or any other non-profit organization when you directly provided the services generating a fee or payment of more than $5,000. You need not report the U.S. Government as a source.

Do not complete this part if you are an Incumbent, Termination Filer, or Vice Presidential or Presidential Candidate

None ☐

	Source (Name and Address)	Brief Description of Duties
Examples:	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State Metro University (client of Doe Jones & Smith), Moneytown, State	Legal services Legal services in connection with university construction
1	Monsanto Company St. Louis, MO	Consulting work on Black Farmer issues.
2	Landloss Prevention Project Durham, NC	Consultant work on Kellogg Foundation Project on equity.
3	East Arkansas Enterprise Community, Forest City, AR	Consulting work on wildlife habitat conservation project.
4	Virginia State University Petersburg, VA	Consultant to Dean--School of Agriculture
5	National Environmental Trust Washington, DC	Consultant on Global Warming Project
6	Oxfam America Boston, MA	Consultant of 2008 Farm Bill Project

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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE D	Page Number
Pearlie S. Reed		7

Part I: Positions Held Outside U.S. Government

Report any positions held during the applicable reporting period, whether compensated or not. Positions include but are not limited to those of an officer, director, trustee, general partner, proprietor, representative, employee, or consultant of any corporation, firm, partnership, or other business enterprise or any non-profit organization or educational institution. **Exclude** positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political entities and those solely of an honorary nature.

None ☐

	Organization (*Name and Address*)	Type of Organization	Position Held	From (Mo., Yr.)	To (Mo., Yr.)
Examples:	Nat'l Assn. of Rock Collectors, NY, NY	Non-profit education	President	6/92	Present
	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	Law firm	Partner	7/85	1/00
1	University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Pine Bluff AK	University	Consultant Intermittent work	7/08 2005	2/09 Present
2	Oxfam America Boston, MA	Conservation/Economic Development	Consultant	01/07	8/08
3	National Environmental Trust Washington, DC	Conservation	Consultant	07/05	12/07
4					
5					
6					

Part II: Compensation In Excess Of $5,000 Paid by One Source

Report sources of more than $5,000 compensation received by you or your business affiliation for services provided directly by you during any one year of the reporting period. This includes the names of clients and customers of any corporation, firm, partnership, or other business enterprise, or any other non-profit organization when you directly provided the services generating a fee or payment of more than $5,000. You need not report the U.S. Government as a source.

Do not complete this part if you are an Incumbent, Termination Filer, or Vice Presidential or Presidential Candidate

None ☐

	Source (*Name and Address*)	Brief Description of Duties
Examples:	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	Legal services
	Metro University (client of Doe Jones & Smith), Moneytown, State	Legal services in connection with university construction
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Prior Editions Cannot Be Used.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION (PUBLIC)

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

   Rajeev Janardan Shah (Rajiv Shah, Raj Shah)

2. Date and place of birth.

   March 9, 1973; Ann Arbor, MI

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

   Married to Shivam Mallick Shah, Deputy Director, Education at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 1551 Eastlake Ave E, Seattle, WA 98102.

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

   Wharton School of Business – Masters in Health Economics (Dates of attendance 1995-2002; degree awarded 2005)
   University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine – Medical Doctorate (Dates of attendance 1995-2002; degree awarded 2002)
   University of Michigan – BS Economics (Dates of attendance 1991-1995; degree awarded 1995)
   London School of Economics – General course certificate (Dates of attendance 1993-1994; degree awarded 1994)

5. Employment and Self-Employment Record: 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.

2001 -present **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

Served in a range of leadership roles in Global Development and Global Health to help the poorest people on earth lead healthy and productive lives. Developed strategic approach to large-scale philanthropy with a focus on impact and results. Created and implemented program and advocacy strategies in agriculture, financial services, and vaccine-preventable disease. Led successful efforts to secure $5 billion in co-funding for vaccine initiatives and to broaden commitment to agricultural development as a means to dramatically reduce global poverty. Manage senior relationships with governments, multilateral agencies, and key private sector firms. Member of the foundation leadership team. Recruited nearly 100 individuals to

join the foundation.

Director, Agricultural Development (2006-present). Created and lead $1.2 billion portfolio to stimulate economic development and reduce poverty and hunger in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Responsible for grant and program related investments in science and technology, farmer productivity, market access, and policy, statistics and advocacy. Designed and launched Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa and helped recruit leadership including UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Created Purchase for Progress initiative to use World Food Program's food procurement capacity to create markets for more than 300,000 small farmers. Developed internationally recognized technology partnerships with private (drought tolerant maize with Monsanto) and public partners. Launched supply chain initiatives in coffee, dairy, cocoa, cotton and cashew with international commodity buyers (Starbucks, Cargill) and NGOs (Technoserve, Heifer). Leveraged media interest in international food crisis to shine a light on the problem of poverty and hunger and innovative solutions to these problems.

Director, Financial Services for the Poor (2006-2007). Launched and served as the portfolio's first Director. Recruited team, led grant-making efforts, and managed relationships with critical partners including major banks, microfinance institutions, and public and private donors.

Director, Strategic Opportunities (2004-2006). Built and led team that identified assessed and recommended the most effective and efficient new ways the foundation could address global inequity. Worked closely with foundation co-chairs to discuss and refine learnings. Final recommendations resulted in the launch of the foundation's Global Development Program.

Deputy Director, Policy & Finance and Senior Economist (2001-2004). Created and managed the Foundation's policy and finance portfolio and oversaw the Foundation's $1.5 billion commitment to the Vaccine Fund. Led an award-winning effort to eradicate polio worldwide using an innovative loan buy-down program with the World Bank. Proposed and successfully advocated for the creation of the International Finance Facility for Immunization, which has raised more than $5 billion via donor commitments and private capital markets and has been referred to as 'a clever way to reduce the burden of costly diseases now and save money in the future' by the *New York Times*. The World Health Organization has claimed this initiative will save 5 million child lives in the next decade.

2001 **Special Advisor, Commissioner for Public Health, City of Philadelphia**
Worked on child obesity programs, cardiovascular programs and smoking cessation efforts. Promoted healthy diet programs for City of Philadelphia and in cooperation with the Philadelphia public schools.

2000 **Gore-Lieberman 2000 Presidential Campaign** – *Health Policy Advisor*
Developed position papers, rapid response documents and debate materials. Prepared briefings for candidate, surrogates and press on health policy issues. Co-authored campaign's Medicare policy book. Also helped contribute to campaign's education policy initiatives and helped organize constituency outreach efforts for the South Asian-American community.

1997-1999 **Health Systems Analytics** – *Co-Founder and Managing Partner*
Created and led data-driven health care consulting firm. Helped clients successfully adapt to market changes by conducting market analyses, providing strategic guidance to major hospital systems and helping a national labor union develop effective workforce projections and worker re-training programs. Selected clients included: Partners Health System (Boston), University of

Pennsylvania Health System, Aetna/U.S. Healthcare, City of Philadelphia, Progressive Policy Institute, and District 1199c.

6. 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.

7. Government Service: 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.

Trustee, Seattle Public Library: 1 of 5 trustees for this nationally recognized library system. Most recently, chaired search committee for new city librarian. Appointed by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels. (May 2007 – present)

Trustee, Seattle Community College District: 1 of 5 trustees for the state's largest community college system – serving 54,000 students. Appointed by Washington Governor Christine Gregoire. (Sept 2006 – present)

8. 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.

- Named a Young Global Leader at the World Economic Forum
- Member of the Global Agenda Council on Food Security, World Economic Forum
- Socrates Scholar at the Aspen Institute
- Medical Scientist Training Program scholarship from the National Institutes of Health (1995-2002)
- Otto Graf Scholarship at the University of Michigan (1994)

9. 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.

- Alliance for a Green Revolution for Africa
- Project IMPACT for South Asian Americans

- Time to Vote
- WA Coalition for Mental Health Parity
- Alumni Association of the University of Michigan Alumni (member, not a leadership position)

10. Published Writings: 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 issues involving agriculture, nutrition, forestry or any other matters within the jurisdiction of this Committee and the Department of Agriculture.

Published Writings

- Book chapter: *Making the Right Money Available at the Right Time*, The New Public Finance, Ed. Inge Kaul & Pedro Conceicao, 2006.
- Contributor to book: Millions Saved: Proven Successes in Global Health, Edited by Ruth Levine, 2004. Shah, R. and Volpp, K. The Use of Economic Studies for Policy Purposes. Cardiovascular Health Care Economics, Ed. Weintraub, W.S., 2001

Speeches

- Keynote speaker, Washington State University 2008 Commencement.
- Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Chicago IL. *Solving the Global Poverty Challenge.* (April 2008)
- International Food Aid Conference, Kansas City, MO. *Closing the Global Agricultural Gap* (April 2008)
- World Food Prize, Des Moines, Iowa. *An Emerging Approach to Agricultural Development* (2006)
- Deutsche Bank Alex Brown, Asset Management Annual Banquet, Philadelphia, PA. *Keynote Address: Making a Difference through Philanthropic Giving.* (May 2003)
- Wilton Park Global Public Goods Financing Conference, *Capital markets mechanisms for global health commodity financing.* (June 2003, U.K.)
- Biotechnology Industry Association Partnering Conference, Washington D.C. *Actionable options to incent industry to create tools and technologies for global health.* (December 2002)
- Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government. *A policy research agenda for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.* (December 2002)
- Wharton School of Business, Philadelphia, PA. *Economics and policy of vaccine development and introduction: practical solutions.* (October 2002)
- Stanford Graduate School of Business, Palo Alto, CA. *Policy issues at the Gates Foundation.* (October 2002)
- World Bank, Washington, DC. *A global approach to accelerating vaccine development and introduction.* (September 2002)

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?

   Not yet, but I plan to if confirmed

2. 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

3. 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

7. Have you ever received a government guaranteed student loan? If so, has it been repaid?
   No, never received

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

9. 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.

I currently serve on the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (www.agra-alliance.org). This is a non-compensated position for a 501C3 non-profit organization seeking to reduce hunger and poverty in Africa. AGRA has existing relationships – a memorandum of understanding – with the Millennium Challenge Corporation and I have met with USDA staff and leadership about AGRA in the past. If confirmed I would step down from the AGRA board.

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. In connection with my ethics agreement, I will seek authorization from the designated agency ethics official to participate in particular matters involving specific parties in which the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is or represents a party pursuant to 5 C.F.R. 2635.502(d). If necessary, I will

also seek a public interest waiver of the restrictions under paragraph 2 of the Ethics Pledge.

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. In connection with my ethics agreement, I will seek authorization from the designated agency ethics official to participate in particular matters involving specific parties in which the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is or represents a party pursuant to 5 C.F.R. 2635.502(d). If necessary, I will also seek a public interest waiver of the restrictions under paragraph 2 of the Ethics Pledge.

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

May 4, 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 Rajeev J. Shah, who has been nominated by President Obama for the position of Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, 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,

Don W. Fox
General Counsel

Enclosures

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 Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, 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.

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my position as Director, Bill & Melinda Gates, Foundation (Foundation), a non-profit philanthropic foundation, located in Seattle, Washington. For one year after my resignation, I will have a "covered relationship" under 5 CFR § 2635.502 with the Foundation. Pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d), I will seek written authorization to participate in particular matters involving specific parties in which the Foundation is a party or represents a party.

On or before my confirmation, I will resign from my position as Trustee for the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), a non-profit agricultural development partnership located in Nairobi, Kenya. For one year after my resignation, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which AGRA is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

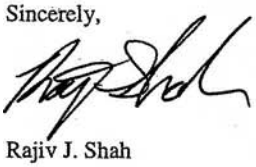
On or before my confirmation, I will resign from trustee positions which I hold with the following additional entities:

- Seattle Community College District, Seattle, Washington
- Seattle Public Library, Seattle, Washington; and
- Project Impact for South Asian Americans, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my position with the above entities. For a period of one year after my resignation, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which an entity listed above 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,



Rajiv J. Shah

SF278 (Rev. 03/2000)
5 C.F.R Part 2634
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Executive Branch Personnel PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

Form Approved:
OMB No. 3209-0001

Date of Appointment, Candidacy, Election or Nomination (Month, Day, Year)	Reporting Status (Check appropriate boxes)	Calendar Year Covered by Report		Termination Date (If Applicable) (Month, Day, Year)
	☐ Incumbent		☒ New Entrant, Nominee, or Candidate	☐ Termination Filer	

Reporting Individual's Name	Last Name: Shah	First Name and Middle Initial: Rajeev J.
Position for Which Filing	Title of Position: Undersecretary, Research, Education & Economics	Department or Agency (If Applicable): U.S. Department of Agriculture
Location of Present Office (or forwarding address)	Address (Number, Street, City, State, and ZIP Code): 1551 Eastlake Ave. E, Seattle, WA 98102	Telephone No. (Include Area Code): (206) 709-3681
Position(s) Held with the Federal Government During the Preceding 12 Months (If Not Same as Above)	Title of Position(s) and Date(s) Held:	
Presidential Nominees Subject to Senate Confirmation	Name of Congressional Committee Considering Nomination: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	Do You Intend to Create a Qualified Diversified Trust? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Certification: I CERTIFY that the statements I have made on this form and all attached schedules are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.	Signature of Reporting Individual: Rajeev Shah	Date (Month, Day, Year): 4-27-2009
Other Review (If desired by agency)	Signature of Other Reviewer:	Date (Month, Day, Year):
Agency Ethics Official's Opinion: On the basis of information contained in this report, I conclude that the filer is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (subject to any comments in this box below)	Signature of Designated Agency Ethics Official/Reviewing Official: R Kla	Date (Month, Day, Year): 4-29-2009
Office of Government Ethics Use Only	Signature: Wm Fop	Date (Month, Day, Year): 4/5/09 5/4/09*

Comments of Reviewing Official: (If additional space is required, use the reverse side of this sheet)

* date corrected - WMS 5/4/09

☐ (Check box if filing extension granted & indicate number of days _____)

☐ (Check box if comments are continued on the reverse side)

RECEIVED
APR 29 2009

Fee for Late Filing

Any individual who is required to file this report and does so more than 30 days after the date the report is required to be filed, or, if an extension is granted, more than 30 days after the last day of the filing extension period shall be subject to a $200 fee.

Reporting Periods

Incumbents: The reporting period is the preceding calendar year except Part II of Schedule C and Part I of Schedule D where you must also include the filing year up to the date you file. Part II of Schedule D is not applicable.

Termination Filers: The reporting period begins at the end of the period covered by your previous filing and ends at the date of termination. Part II of Schedule D is not applicable.

Nominees, New Entrants and Candidates for President and Vice President:

Schedule A: The reporting period for income (BLOCK C) is the preceding calendar year and the current calendar year up to the date of filing. Value assets as of any date you choose that is within 31 days of the date of filing.

Schedule B: Not applicable.

Schedule C, Part I: Liabilities: The reporting period is the preceding calendar year and the current calendar year up to any date you choose that is within 31 days of the date of filing.

Schedule C, Part II: Agreements or Arrangements: Show any agreements or arrangements as of the date of filing.

Schedule D: The reporting period is the preceding two calendar years and the current calendar year up to the date of filing.

Agency Use Only

OGE Use Only
APR 30 2009

Supersedes Prior Editions, Which Cannot Be Used. 278-112 Form Designed in Microsoft Excel 2000 NSN 7540-01-070-8444

SF278 (Rev. 03/2000)
5 C.F.R Part 2634
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Reporting Individual's Name: Rajeev Janardan Shah

SCHEDULE A

Page Number: 1

Assets and Income (BLOCK A)	Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period (BLOCK B)												Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. (BLOCK C)															
													Type				Amount									Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
For you, your spouse, and dependent children, report each asset held for investment or the production of income which had a fair market value exceeding $1,000 at the close of the reporting period, or which generated more than $200 in income during the reporting period, together with such income. For yourself, also report the source and actual amount of earned income exceeding $200 (other than from the U.S. Government). For your spouse, report the source but not the amount of earned income of more than $1,000 (except report the actual account of any honoraria over $200 of your spouse). None ☐	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000 *	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Dividends	Rent and Royalties	Interest	Capital Gains	None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000		
Examples: Central Airlines Common			x												x						x									
Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown State				x																										
Kempstone Equity Fund					x										x															
IRA: Heartland 500 Index Fund							x								x															
1 Starbucks Corp (Stock)		x																	x											
2 Johnson & Johnson (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x													x					x										
3 Google (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x																	x											
4 Hersha Hospitality Trust (REIT) (HT) (Stock)	x													x		x					x										
5 3M Company (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x														x					x										
6 99 Cents Only Stores (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x																	x											

* This category applies only if the asset/income is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the asset/income is either that of the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

Prior Editions Cannot be Used.

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Reporting Individual's Name: Rajeev Janardan Shah

SCHEDULE A continued

(Use only if needed)

Page Number: 2

Assets and Income (BLOCK A)	Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period (BLOCK B)															Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. (BLOCK C)																
																Type				Amount												
None ☐	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Dividends	Rent and Royalties	Interest	Capital Gains	None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
1 Berkshire Hathaway Inc. (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account			x																	x												
2 Chico's Fashion (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x																		x												
3 Contango Oil & Gas (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x																		x												
4 Ebay (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x																		x												
5 Fairfax Financial (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account			x													x				x												
6 Genzyme (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x																		x												
7 Graco Inc (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x														x				x												
8 Home Depot (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x														x				x												
9 Ishares MSCI MSCI Japan Ind Fd (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x												x						x												

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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE A continued (Use only if needed)	Page Number
Rajeev Janardan Shah		3

SCHEDULE A continued

(Use only if needed)

Assets and Income BLOCK A	Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period BLOCK B															Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. BLOCK C																
																Type				Amount												
None ☐	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Dividends	Rent and Royalties	Interest	Capital Gains	None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
1 Markel CP (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x																		x												
2 Medtronic Inc (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x														x				x												
3 Powershares Dynamic Market Intellidex Index Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x											x							x												
4 Tower Group Inc (Stock) Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x														x				x												
5 DFA Invt Dimensions Group US Vector Equity-DFVEX Ameritrade Brokerage Account			x										x								x											
6 DFA Invt Dimensions Group US Large Cap Value Portfolio-DFLVX Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x											x							x												
7 DFA Invt Dimensions Group International Value Portfolio-DFIVX Ameritrade Brokerage Account		x											x								x											
8 Dimensional Invt Group GL Equity Portfolio-DGEIX Ameritrade Brokerage Account			x										x									x										
9 401K - Allianz RCM Tech Fund		x											x							x												

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Reporting Individual's Name: Rajeev Janardan Shah

SCHEDULE A continued
(Use only if needed)

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#	Assets and Income (BLOCK A) None ☐	Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period (BLOCK B): None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Income (BLOCK C) Type: Dividends	Rent and Royalties	Interest	Capital Gains	Amount: None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
1	401K - American Balanced Fund (RLBFX)		x											x							x												
2	401K - T Rowe Price Equity Inc		x											x							x												
3	401K - Mutual Beacon				x									x							x												
4	401K - DWS RREEF Real Estate			x										x							x												
5	401K - BlackRock Large Value					x								x							x												
6	401K - MidValue Fund (JEMUX)				x									x							x												
7	401K - Total Stock Market Index Fund (JETSX)		x											x							x												
8	401K - International Value Fund (JIVIX)			x										x							x												
9	401K - International Equity Index Fund (PIEQX)			x										x							x												

Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item.

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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE A continued (Use only if needed)	Page Number
Rajeev Janardan Shah		5

Assets and Income (BLOCK A)	Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period (BLOCK B)												Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. (BLOCK C)																
																Type			Amount											
None ☐	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Dividends	Rent and Royalties	Interest	Capital Gains	None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo. Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
1 Rental Property - DC Washington, DC (Residential)							X										X								X							
2 Rental Property - Philadelphia Philadelphia, PA						X											X								X							
3 Blank																																
4 529B for Dependent Child # 1 T. Rowe Price Alaska Fund Portfolio 2024		X											X							X												
5 529B for Dependent Child # 2 T. Rowe Price Alaska Fund Portfolio 2027		X											X							X												
6 Savings Account - Citibank			X																	X												
7 Savings Account - Wells Fargo		X																		X												
8 Texas Pacific Group Whistler, BC, Canada																															Honoraria 10,000	6/27/08
9 AIM Invt Funds - GL Healthcare CL A 401K			X										X									X										

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Reporting Individual's Name: Rajeev Janardan Shah

SCHEDULE A continued

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Assets and Income — BLOCK A

Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period — BLOCK B

Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. — BLOCK C

None ☐

#	Assets and Income (BLOCK A)	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust
1	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Seattle, WA															
2	Salary 2008 Salary 2009															
3 S	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Seattle, WA Employment															
4	Columbia Value & Restructuring Fund 401K			X										X		
5	Seattle Community College Seattle, WA Salary 2008															
6	Money Market Account Ameritrade Brokerage Account				x											
7	Cash Merger Sleep Country Canada Ameritrade Brokerage Account	X														
8																
9																

#	Assets and Income (BLOCK A)	Type: Dividends	Type: Rent and Royalties	Type: Interest	Type: Capital Gains	Amount: None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
1	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Seattle, WA																	
2	Salary 2008 Salary 2009																259,168 46,666	
3 S	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Seattle, WA Employment																Salary	
4	Columbia Value & Restructuring Fund 401K					X												
5	Seattle Community College Seattle, WA Salary 2008																1,400	
6	Money Market Account Ameritrade Brokerage Account			x			x											
7	Cash Merger Sleep Country Canada Ameritrade Brokerage Account				x		x											
8																		
9																		

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Do not Complete Schedule B if you are a new entrant, nominee, Vice Presidential or Presidential Candidate

Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE B	Page Number
Rajeev Janardan Shah		7

Part I: Transactions

None ☐

Report any purchase, sale, or exchange by you, your spouse, or dependent children during the reporting period of any real property, stocks, bonds, commodity futures, and other securities when the amount of the transaction exceeded $1,000. Include transactions that resulted in a loss. Do not report a transaction involving property used solely as your personal residence, or a transaction solely between you, your spouse, or dependent child. Check the "Certificate of divestiture" block to indicate sales made pursuant to a certificate of divestiture from OGE.

	Identification of Assets	Transaction Type (x)			Date (Mo., Day, Yr.)	Amount of Transaction (x)													
		Purchase	Sale	Exchange		$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Certificate of divestiture
	Example: Central Airlines Common	x			2/1/99			x									
1																	
2																	
3																	
4																	
5																	

* This category applies only if the underlying asset is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the underlying asset is either held by the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, use the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

Part II: Gifts, Reimbursements, and Travel Expenses

For you, your spouse and dependent children, report the source, a brief description, and the value of: (1) gifts (such as tangible items, transportation, lodging, food, or entertainment) received from one source totaling more than $260; and (2) travel-related cash reimbursements received from one source totaling more than $260. For conflicts analysis, it is helpful to indicate a basis for receipt, such as personal friend, agency approval under 5 U.S.C. § 4111 or other statutory authority, etc. For travel-related gifts and reimbursements, include travel itinerary, dates, and the nature of expenses provided. **Exclude** anything given to you by the U.S. Government, given to your agency in connection with official travel, received from relatives, received by your spouse or dependent child totally independent of their relationship to you, or provided as personal hospitality at the donor's residence. Also, for purposes of aggregating gifts to determine the total value from one source, exclude items worth $104 or less. See instructions for other exclusions.

None ☐

	Source (Name and Address)	Brief Description	Value
	Examples: Nat'l Assn. of Rock Collectors, NY, NY	Airline ticket, hotel room & meals incident to national conference 6/15/99 (personal activity unrelated to duty)	$500
	Frank Jones, San Francisco, CA	Leather briefcase (personal friend)	$300
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE C	Page Number
Rajeev Janardan Shah		8

Part I: Liabilities

Report liabilities over $10,000 owed to any one creditor at **any time** during the reporting period by you, your spouse, or dependent children. Check the highest amount owed during the reporting period. **Exclude** a mortgage on your personal residence unless it is rented out; loans secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances; and liabilities owed to certain relatives listed in instructions. See instructions for revolving charge accounts.

None ☐

	Creditors (Name and Address)	Type of Liability	Date Incurred	Interest Rate	Term if applicable	Category of Amount or Value (x)										
						$10,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000
Examples	First District Bank, Washington, DC	Mortgage on rental property, Delaware	1991	8%	25 yrs	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	John Jones, 123 J St., Washington, DC	Promissory note	1999	10 %	on demand	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Wells Fargo Bank Seattle, WA	Mortgage on rental property, DC	2003	5.875%	30 yrs					x						
2	Wells Fargo Bank Seattle, WA	Mortgage on rental property, Philadelphia	2005	5.75%	30 yrs					x						
3	Sallie Mae AES	Student Loans [spouse] Student Loans [spouse]	2003 1997	4.0% 3.2%	3/2008 3/2008	x	x									
4																
5																

* This category applies only if the liability is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the liability is that of the filer or a joint liability of the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories, as appropriate.

Part II: Agreements or Arrangements

Report your agreements or arrangements for: continuing participation in an employee benefit plan (e.g. 401k, deferred compensation); (2) continuation payment by a former employer (including severance payments); (3) leaves of absence; and (4) future employment. See instructions regarding the reporting of negotiations for any of these arrangements or benefits.

None ☒

	Status and Terms of any Agreement or Arrangement	Parties	Date
Example	Pursuant to partnership agreement, will receive lump sum payment of capital account & partnership share calculated on service performed through 1/00	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	7/85
1	Upon termination from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Foundation), the Foundation will make one final contribution to my 401k and my spouse's 401k on the 1st day of the quarter following my termination. The Foundation will make no further		2001
2	contributions to our 401ks and we will roll over these 401ks following receipt of this contribution.		
3			
4			
5			
6			

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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE D	Page Number
Rajeev Janardan Shah		9

Part I: Positions Held Outside U.S. Government

Report any positions held during the applicable reporting period, whether compensated or not. Positions include but are not limited to those of an officer, director, trustee, general partner, proprietor, representative, employee, or consultant of any corporation, firm, partnership, or other business enterprise or any non-profit organization or educational institution. **Exclude** positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political entities and those solely of an honorary nature.

None ☐

	Organization (*Name and Address*)	Type of Organization	Position Held	From (Mo., Yr.)	To (Mo., Yr.)
Examples:	Nat'l Assn. of Rock Collectors, NY, NY Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	Non-profit education Law firm	President Partner	6/92 7/85	Present 1/00
1	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle, WA	Foundation	Director	2001	present
2	Seattle Community College District in Seattle, WA	Community College System	Trustee	2006	present
3	Seattle Public Library in Seattle, WA	Public Library	Trustee	2006	present
4	AGRA in Nairobi, Kenya	Nonprofit - Agricultural Development	Trustee	2007	present
5	Project IMPACT for South Asian Americans in Philadelphia, PA	Nonprofit	Trustee	2001	present
6					
7					

Part II: Compensation In Excess Of $5,000 Paid by One Source

Report sources of more than $5,000 compensation received by you or your business affiliation for services provided directly by you during any one year of the reporting period. This includes the names of clients and customers of any corporation, firm, partnership, or other business enterprise, or any other non-profit organization when you directly provided the services generating a fee or payment of more than $5,000. You need not report the U.S. Government as a source.

Do not complete this part if you are an Incumbent, Termination Filer, or Vice Presidential or Presidential Candidate

None ☐

	Source (*Name and Address*)	Brief Description of Duties
Examples:	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State Metro University (client of Doe Jones & Smith), Moneytown, State	Legal services Legal services in connection with university construction
1	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle, WA	Director of Agricultural Development team
2	Texas Pacific Group in California	Guest speaker at Annual Syposium
3		
4		
5		
6		

Prior Editions Cannot Be Used.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION (PUBLIC)

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

   Dallas Paul Tonsager

2. Date and place of birth.

   June 24, 1954
   Lake Preston, South Dakota

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

   Sharon Ann (Kvernes) Tonsager
   Former school teacher, not currently employed

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

   South Dakota State University 1972 to 1976
   -College of Agriculture Bachelor of Science
   Granted in May of 1976

5. Employment and Self-Employment Record: 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.

   See Attachment A

6. 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

7. Government Service: 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.

   State Director of Farmers Home Administration/USDA Rural Development for South Dakota 1993-2001
   The Position was appointed and was a Schedule C GS 15

   Board Member Farm Credit Administration 2004 to Present

The Position is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate (Executive Service level 4)

8. 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.

- Best housing program- United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, 1995. South Dakota was recognized for having the outstanding housing program in the agency.
- Vice President's Hammer Award- United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, 1996. Was recognized as part of a team that reinvented the Business and Industry Loan Program.
- Friend of Rural Water Award- South Dakota Rural Water Association, 1997.
- Outstanding State Director in the Nation- United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, 1999. Recognition was given by Under Secretary Jill Long Thompson.
- Eminent Service Award, East River Electric Power Cooperative, 2001.
- Eagle Award- Boys and Girls Clubs of America, 2001. Recognized by Boys and Girls Clubs for effort at creating the new SuAnn Big Crow Center.

9. 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

None

10. Published Writings: 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 issues involving agriculture, nutrition, forestry or any other matters within the jurisdiction of this Committee and the Department of Agriculture.

Attachment B	Agri-Access Third Annual Lenders Conference, Des Moines, Iowa
Attachment C	Statement on Governance Regulation Farm Credit Administration Headquarters, McLean, VA
Attachment D	Statement on Young Beginning and Small Farmers Farm Credit Administration Headquarters, McLean, VA
Attachment E	Statement on Processing and Marketing Regulation Farm Credit Administration Headquarters, McLean, VA
Attachment F	Statement on Termination Regulation Farm Credit Administration Headquarters, McLean, VA

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?

I remain a member of the South Dakota Farmers Union but have no business relationship.
I remain a partner of Plainview Farm, Plainview Land Company and I own farm land personally (See answer to Question 12)

I have no other business relationships.

2. 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.

I have no such business relationships, except for income that might come to me from farming.

I expect to have retirement income from:

My Thrift Savings Plan currently	$153,000
My IRA at the American State Bank of Oldham currently	$26,869
My IRA with Federated Investments currently	$20,974
My IRA with Wells Fargo currently	$15,761

In addition I am vested in the federal retirement program

3. 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.)

Yes. My brother Doug and I have owned a farm partnership since 1976. It owns 200 acres but farms a total of 2000 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat. We have a formal partnership agreement (Plainview Farm). We each own half but Doug is the manager. Since my appointment to the FCA Board in 2004, I have been and remain only a passive owner of Plainview Farm.

I am one fourth owner of an LLC called Plainview Land Company. The other owners are my two brothers and my sister. It owns a total of 640 acres and all of it is cash rented to Plainview Farm.

I personally own 240 acres and contribute its use to Plainview Farm.

I am inheriting another 80 acres, due to the recent loss of my mother.

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.)

Yes. Please see attachment G Prepared by the Kingsbury County South Dakota FSA office. (The County Executive Director is Larry Somsen 605-854-9123)

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.)

Yes. The farms I have been involved with have received loans from the Farm Service Agency and its predecessor agencies for the construction of grain storage facilities and in the course of using commodity loan programs. All loans have been repaid in a timely way. Please see Attachment G on the status of current loans. I have not been involved in the use of programs from other agencies.

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.)

Yes. Please see attachment H prepared by the American State Bank of Oldham, South Dakota, my farms crop insurance agent.

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

Yes. I borrowed money for my two sons' education. The loans have been consolidated and are currently held by Wells Fargo. All payments have been made on time and the loan is current. ~~(See Attachment "I" my financial statement)~~ (confidential financial statement redacted)

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. Except that I will maintain my passive ownership in my farms. (See answer to Question 12)

9. 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, except perhaps my farms.

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.

Attachment A

Organization	Job title	Description	Years
Plainview Farm	Partner	Family farm in partnership with my brother	1976-Present
Land O Lakes	Voting Unit Director	As a dairy farmer I was elected by the cooperative's members to represent them on this advisory committee	1978-1984 approximately
Oldham Farmers Elevator	Board Member	Cooperative grain elevator, the board was responsible for the affairs the company	1980-1988 Approximately
South Dakota Farmers Union	State Vice President	Served on the organization's board because of election by membership	1987-1988
South Dakota Farmers Union	State President	Served in full time role managing organization and advocating for family farmers.	1988-1993
South Dakota Farmers Union	State Vice President	Served on the organization's board because of election by membership	2002

Farmers Union Service Association	President	A statewide insurance company, owned by Farmers Union	1988-1993
Farmers Union Travel company	President	Travel company providing service to Farmers Union members	1988-1993
National Farmers Union	Board member	Normal board activities including management	1988-1993
National Farmers Union Insurance Company's	Board Member	Normal board Activities including management	1988-1993
Green Thumb Inc	Board Member	Nationwide job training program funded by the federal government	1988-1993
Commodity Futures Trading Commission	Advisory Board Member	Represented National Farmers Union	1990-1993 Approximately
STT Farm	Partner	Farm partnership with brother and a friend; owned 200 acres	1996-2003 property sold in 2003 to Plainview Farm,
Plainview Land Company LLC	Partner	Family Farm Partnership owned by myself, brothers and sisters	1994-Present
USDA Farmers Home Administration/ Rural Development	State Director	Appointed to FmHA and stayed as director in newly established Rural Development	1993-2001
Tonsager Consulting	President	Started company to provide consulting services	2001
Golden Plains Ventures Group	President	Started company to provide consulting services primarily for the development of value added agriculture processing companies.	2002
Golden Plains Energy Group	Partner	My partner provided consulting on energy marketing	2002
South Dakota Value Added Agriculture Development Center	Executive Director	Non profit devoted to the development of projects to improve farm income	2002-2004

Renewable Resources Research Institute	Board Member	Non profit is a three state organization; I was a member because of job with Value Added Development Center	2003-2004
Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota	Board Member	State wide social service organization	2001-2007
South Dakota Agriculture Producer Ventures	Advisory Board Member	Non profit devoted to the development of projects to improve farm income	2003-2004
Farm Credit Administration McLean, VA	Board Member	Federal Regulator of the Farm Credit System	2004-Present
Farm Credit Insurance Corporation McLean, VA	Board Member	Federally established insurance fund to support the Farm Credit System	2004-Present

Attachment B

Dallas Tonsager's Comments

Agri-Access Third Annual Lenders Conference
June 28, 2007
Des Moines, Iowa

It's good to be here in Des Moines at the Lenders Conference hosted by AgStar's Agri-Access. I was pleased to accept Paul's invitation to speak to you about the Farm Credit Administration's mission and, specifically, its recent policies intended to encourage Farm Credit System institutions to partner with other financial institutions so that agriculture and rural communities may be better served.

As one of the three board members of the Farm Credit Administration, which oversees, examines, and regulates the 90-year-old Farm Credit System, we are responsible for ensuring the safety and soundness of the Farm Credit System, and, equally important, ensuring the System is meeting its congressionally mandated mission of making credit available to farmers and ranchers and their cooperatives, and for rural residences.

My colleagues and I hail from three contiguous Midwestern States. Chairman Nancy Pellett is from Iowa, Board member Leland Strom is from Illinois, and, as you know, I am from South Dakota. We are all from rural communities and know well the many

challenges and struggles that rural communities and residents face in maintaining a sustainable rural economy and, in some cases, simply trying to provide for basic needs. We strongly believe the Farm Credit System has the authority and ability to not only serve farmers and ranchers and their cooperatives but also the communities in which they live.

In fact, part of the Farm Credit System's congressional mandate is "to provide an adequate and flexible flow of money into rural areas." Consistent with statutory requirements, FCA is committed to helping ensure a dependable, affordable flow of funds to agriculture and rural areas so that farmers, ranchers, and their rural communities can flourish. In an effort to allow the Farm Credit System to better fulfill its mandate, the Farm Credit Administration issued guidance that gave System institutions a provisional opportunity to make additional mission-related investments through pilot programs supporting investments in rural America.

The pilot programs are intended to strengthen the System's mission to provide for an adequate and flexible flow of funds to agriculture and rural communities across the country. These programs recognize that there is a strong link between the economic vibrancy of rural areas and the economic well-being of American farmers and ranchers. Further, the pilot investment programs are intended to provide Farm Credit System institutions greater flexibility to partner with Government agencies and agricultural and rural lenders in providing the flow of funds needed by rural areas to prosper and grow. Through these pilot investment programs, FCA is looking to gain a better understanding of the diverse financing needs of agriculture and rural communities and of how FCS institution investments could help increase the availability and efficiency of funds to these markets in a collaborative manner. For example, **rural america bonds** and **agricultural and rural community bonds** focus on investments that provide funding for economic development, infrastructure, essential community facilities, and revitalization and stabilization projects that are necessary to maintain a vibrant American agriculture and strong rural communities. A key objective of these pilot programs is to stimulate FCS partnerships and alliances with other agricultural and rural lenders to increase the availability of cost-effective funds to agriculture and rural communities.

> *For example, AgStar was one of a number of Farm Credit System institutions that stepped in to help finance the hospital expansion in St James, Minnesota, a part of Minnesota's system of critical access hospitals serving rural areas. This project struggled for years until FCS partnered with Morgan Keegan and USDA by issuing bonds under the pilot program. It is a shining example of what can be accomplished by working together to find solutions to the challenges that face rural Americans.*
>
> *AgPool Securities is another excellent example of Farm Credit System institutions partnering with commercial banks. In this case, Western New York, ACA, extended pass-through notes backed by pools of distressed agricultural loans originated by a commercial lender. The transactions prevented a significant number of agricultural assets from hitting the market at one time, which would have had the potential to negatively impact the local agricultural economy. The transaction also helped the local commercial bank overcome the financial difficulties it was experiencing due to its agricultural portfolio.*

These are only two of many projects that have been financed by the System since the announcement of the Investments in Rural America Pilot Program nearly two and one-half years ago. They clearly demonstrate there is a need for long-term capital financing in rural communities and for the Farm Credit System to play an important role in helping to meet the needs of rural America. There is even greater potential

for rural communities when System institutions and other lenders work together for the good of rural Americans.

I have had considerable experience in rural economic development by working with communities, producers, and entrepreneurs to develop business plans for projects and then working to bring together the many interested parties to turn the idea into a reality. Before being appointed to the FCA Board, I served as USDA's Rural Development Director for South Dakota and later as executive director of the South Dakota Value-Added Agriculture Development Center. In those positions, I worked closely with Farm Credit System institutions, commercial bankers, insurance companies, and anyone else I could put together a deal with for a wide range of rural projects. Capital and financing were very difficult to come by for many of the projects we worked on, and this has unfortunately not changed.

If I may, for a moment, I want to take off my regulator "hat" and talk to you about my passion above all else: advancing a prosperous agricultural economy and economic opportunities for rural America. I enjoy my current position and my Board colleagues and all the fine people of the Farm Credit Administration and Farm Credit System. But I do at times miss "the hunt" of putting together a package deal for a value-added processing plant, a rural medical care facility, or a tribal community center.

Watching the ribbon being cut on a new business or a community center built collaboratively gives everyone involved with the project a great sense of accomplishment and fulfillment.

> *The Midwest Biodiesel Producers plant of Alexandria, South Dakota is a real success story of a group of South Dakota farmers' ingenuity and determination in building the State's first certified biodiesel plant. The plant got its start 5 years ago when one of the farmers perfected biodiesel chemistry in his home blender after taking a course on biodiesel production and economic planning at Iowa State University. The group of farmers persevered by overcoming many obstacles and doubters, including two feasibility assessments that concluded the project was not viable. Although the original plan to build a 20 million-gallon plant was scaled back to 7 million gallons, the plant is up and running and delivering added value to local crop producers.*

Much of the success of projects I have been involved in putting together was due in large part to collaboration and partnership. Partnership… that is why I was so eager to accept Paul's invitation to speak before you today about ways in which the Farm Credit System and commercial lenders can work together for the common good.

There are many examples of commercial banks and Farm Credit System associations sharing in loans through syndications, participations, and assignments. These are excellent tools for spreading risk and providing greater lending capacity for the borrowers they serve. Investment in Rural America through Agri-Access is another great opportunity for commercial lenders to work with a FCS institution to provide more capital to rural America.

I've come here to Des Moines to encourage you to consider not only using Agri-Access but to seek out all opportunities to partner with FCS institutions. And I am glad to be in the heartland, where the spirit of cooperation and partnership truly exists. After all, it is here, not in Washington, D.C., where deals are made that make life better for you, your family, your neighbors, and your communities. And I believe if agriculture is to prosper in the future and our rural communities are to survive, it will require lenders such as the Farm Credit System, community bankers, and many

others to work together.

Now you are probably thinking to yourselves, he's some do-gooder trying to tell us our business. I want to assure you I am not. I've often asked myself why I get so much satisfaction from economic community development. I've come to the conclusion that although I am helping others, my reward is a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment. I realize you have to make a profit to justify a loan or investment. It's OK to make money in the pursuit of the common good.

I want to appeal to you today to work with the Farm Credit System through Agri-Access, Investments in Rural America, and all other avenues, and with other lenders for the betterment and preservation of the communities in which we work and live. Together we can do more for farmers and ranchers and rural communities that benefit us all. Agri-Access provides one path to partner with the Farm Credit System, but it is not the only way private lenders and the Farm Credit System can work together for the common good. By working together to finance rural businesses and community facilities, more jobs are created, which will provide opportunities to retain and attract young people and make our rural economies more vibrant and profitable for you, rural businesses, and America's farmers, ranchers, and aquatic producers.

Attachment C

Statement of Board Member Dallas Tonsager

Farm Credit Administration Board Meeting
January 6, 2006

Madam Chair, I did want to make a few comments. It was just over a year ago when I started in this position. Literally, the first week on the Board, we considered voting on the proposed governance rule. Everyone is in favor of good governance and so, with the public caveat that I had not had time to fully digest the rule, and that I would look forward to the comments we would receive, I voted for it. I want to thank everyone for allowing me the opportunity to hear - in no uncertain terms and from many, many people about the proposed rule. In fact, the proposed rule probably caused me to meet and get to know more people faster than any other single thing that could have happened.

Will Rogers once said something like: Even if you are on the right track --- if you are standing still, you may get run over. And that is sort of how I felt about this rule. It was on the right track. We had the right ideas and we put them out there. But we did not stand still. We entered into a dialogue and received hundreds of comments. The final product that the Agency has produced and the Board has approved is - in my - now - fairly educated opinion -- a very good rule. The owner-members of the Farm Credit System cooperatives can be confident that their elected board of directors and their staff will be strong and responsive to their needs. Those that hold and purchase bonds issued by the Farm Credit System can be confident that the long-standing tradition of the System to protect their interests will be even better. Congress and the public can be assured that the Farm Credit System is safe, sound and carrying out its mission to serve farmers, ranchers and rural America.

While we have made numerous changes as a result of the comments - and these changes were not inconsiderable - we still ended up with a strong, yet workable, rule that contains: board evaluations and training; financial expertise requirements; thoughtful disclosure provisions; improvements to board nominating, compensation and audit committees; and finally a provision that ensures that no less than 60 percent of all boards be comprised of cooperative members elected by the actual stockholders of the cooperatives.

I am sure that some will say that they would have liked to draft the final rule differently. But I do not think that anyone can reasonably say that the final product is not something that has developed thoughtfully during the comment process and represents a marked improvement in the final product.

So, I am pleased we have approved the final rule, and thank all of those at FCA who worked on this - but also those whose comments helped to educate -- not only me and my staff, but all of us at the Agency. We have a final product for which we can be very proud.

Madam Chair, I wanted to make one final statement. In just over a week, a national holiday will be celebrated: Martin Luther King Day. Nearly every time I speak to the Farm Credit System, I mention the issue of diversity. I know my fellow board members have often done the same thing. I have never worked with a more professional group of people than those involved in System. I have also said that I have no knowledge of any discrimination within the System. At the same time, the System boards, and to a lesser degree staffs - don't necessarily look like the clients they serve. I am pleased with some of the recent efforts that System institutions have undertaken and some diversity-related programs. I hope this will continue. Likewise, I am hopeful that as boards consider who to appoint to their board to fulfill the outside director

positions we just approved as part of the governance rule, that that they will give consideration to adding diversity to their boards. Diversity is something that we should embrace. It is something that will make our nation - and the Farm Credit System - stronger and more vibrant.

I just think that we should all keep that in mind as we approach Reverend King's birthday next week.

Again, thank you for allowing me to make these comments and I do thank everyone for their work on the governance rule - which is a very worthy accomplishment.

Thank you.

Attachment D

YBS Bookletter Statement
Board Member Dallas Tonsager
August 9, 2007

I am pleased that today the FCA Board approved an updated bookletter to Farm Credit System (System or FCS) institutions regarding young, beginning and small (YBS) farmer lending. While a significant number of the System's loan volume is in the YBS category, the intent of the new policy guidance is to encourage even greater activity in YBS lending by allowing the System more flexibility to meet the financing needs of YBS farmers who demonstrate a commitment to their farming operations.

Farming and ranching is a capital intensive enterprise, which serves as a barrier for many YBS farmers and ranchers wanting to pursue a career in agriculture. As a government sponsored enterprise (GSE), I believe that the System has a responsibility to make available the financing necessary for creditworthy YBS borrowers for the start-up capital they need to pursue their dream of becoming a full-time farmer or rancher. I hope that this step by the Agency will result in a renewed focus on YBS borrowers by the FCS, and that System directors and officers will respond to this challenge as leaders in helping to foster the next generation of America's farmers and ranchers. The agency and the System must aggressively look for additional ways to go even further in this vital area.

Attachment E

Statement of
FCA Board Member
Dallas P. Tonsager
April 10, 2008
Processing and Marketing Final Rule

First, I want to thank Chairman Pellet and her staff for allowing me the time to work through some issues and concerns I had with the proposed regulation. Secondly, I want to commend ORP Director Andrew Jacob and General Counsel Charlie Rawls and their staffs (particularly Mike Duffy and Michael Anderson of O.E., Barry Mardock and Eric Howard of ORP, and Howard Rubin of OGC) for their tireless work on this rule. They have had to consider and address the issues raised in thousands of comment letters and have had many meetings with me answering my questions, and addressing my suggestions and concerns. Any new rule or regulation can bring about unforeseen consequences, but I am certain of one thing, the FCA staff is conscientious in their efforts to enable the Farm Credit System the opportunity to meet its congressional mission to serve America's farmers, ranchers, and the communities in which they live. I am proud to work with such dedicated professionals.

American agriculture and rural communities continue to change. These changes put ever increasing pressure on farmers and ranchers, and community leaders to stay abreast of the evolving landscape to retain businesses, jobs and essential services in order to maintain vibrant communities. The greatest single element most needed for rural leaders and entrepreneurs, and farmer and rancher businesses to survive and compete in the marketplace, is capital. The Processing and Marketing Rule we are voting on today allows the Farm Credit System greater ability to serve the financing needs of farmer and rancher value-added businesses thereby better serving its mission "of making credit available to farmers and ranchers…and other entities upon which farming operations are dependent, [and] to provide for an adequate and flexible flow of money into rural areas…" [Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended].

I am particularly excited about the changes this rule makes to the processing and marketing authorities. Not only because it allows Farm Credit System borrowers greater access to capital, but because it allows rural communities and residents an opportunity to become part of local agribusinesses that create jobs, and in which a greater share of earnings remain in the community. Also, I am hopeful this rule will

benefit small and medium-sized, value-added enterprises whose credit needs may now be passed over due to size, economy of scale, and new farmer ownership and control structures. I am of the opinion that big is not always best" and believe this rule provides the Farm Credit System flexibility to meet the credit needs of smaller value-added projects. It is also important to note that the new ownership and control eligibility changes do not apply to Title III, cooperative borrower eligibility requirements.

Finally, I realize that the Farm Credit System is a cooperative lender; however, I want to encourage the Farm Credit System to help foster farmer and rancher entrepreneurship by assisting in feasibility studies through individual institutions efforts and the Farm Credit Foundation. For example, the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development's Value-Added Grant Program provides matching grants to assist farmers and ranchers in developing business plans for value-added businesses. I hope the Farm Credit System embraces the opportunity to be a full partner in fostering economic opportunities in Rural America.

For these reasons, I support the borrower eligibility changes to FCA's processing and marketing regulation.

Attachment F

Board Member Tonsager
Comments regarding the revised
Termination Regulation
July 13, 2006

Chairman Pellett, Board Member Flory, it is timely that today's vote finalizing a revised termination regulation comes so close to the 90th anniversary of the signing of the law that created the Farm Credit System. This milestone change to the regulation ensures a more clear, open and democratic process. Like the governance regulation earlier this year, this termination regulation will reassure the stockholders of these cooperative institutions that their business will be conducted fairly, and in the light of day.

If the members, the board of directors, and the management of a Farm Credit institution want to exit the Farm Credit System they can and will be able to if they follow the process we've established here today. We have grown accustomed to the idea of corporations being bought, sold, merged and in many cases mangled as a normal course of business action. But Farm Credit institutions have a special obligation; an obligation that farmers and other rural Americans depend upon. That obligation, given to them by Congress to provide affordable, long-term and operating credit should be paramount as any termination is considered.

Farmers bear great risk every day. They cannot afford the risk of losing access to this important source of credit. Those who would choose to begin the process of separation from the Farm Credit System should closely examine the ramifications to their stockholder members and the rural communities involved.

As a farmer, rural resident, and an economic developer, I strongly believe that those who commit to serve rural America deserve strong consistent support from this Agency. Whether it is a Farm Credit association, a small town bank or any other financial institution, the creation of a fair competitive financial environment serves all rural Americans. Rural Americans that

need and deserve more -- not less -- of a choice when it comes to their credit needs.

This termination regulation sends a strong signal to farmers, ranchers and rural residents that the FCA will act to insure there will always be access especially to long term credit should a Farm Credit institution initiate the termination process. For the last 90 years, farmers have chosen to cooperatively act together by creating democratic institutions to assure their own success. Through good times and very bad times these institutions have not wavered in their mission.

If the time should come to consider the termination of a Farm Credit institution, I believe that this Board and the FCA will do so fairly and methodically. I believe that we have fully addressed the concerns expressed last year by many. Stockholders, bondholders and members of Congress can rest assured that their interests will be protected. Thank you.

Attachment G

PLAINVIEW FARMS PAYMENTS	
2008	
Crop Disaster Program	$2,730.00
Conservation Reserve Program	$1,934.00
Direct Payment (Guaranteed Pmt)	
F#1157 Corn	$274.00
Soybean	$994.00
Wheat	$244.00
#1234 Corn	0
Soybean	$1,068.00
Wheat	$402.00
#5070 Corn	$7,056.00
Soybean	$4,664.00
Wheat	3,974.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS IN '08	**$23,340.00**

2007	
Crop Disaster Program	$520.00
Conservation Reserve Program	$7,222.00
Direct Payment (Guaranteed Payment)	
F#1157 Corn	$274.00
Soybean	$994.00
Wheat	$244.00
F#1234 Corn	0
Soybean	$1,068.00
Wheat	$402.00
F#5070 Corn	$7,056.00
Soybean	$4,664.00
Wheat	$3,974.00
Grain Loans Corn Ln#21	$136,983.00
Corn Ln#76	$44,115.00
Soybean Ln#22	$89,061.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR 2007(includes loans)	**$296,577.00**
2006	
Conservation Reserve Program	$7,222.00 - $361.00 for CRP Haying & Grazing
Direct Payment (Guaranteed Payment)	
F#1157 Corn	$274.00
Soybean	$994.00
Wheat	$244.00
F#1234 Corn	0
Soybean	$1,068.00
Wheat	$402.00
F#5070 Corn	$7,056.00
Soybean	$4,664.00
Wheat	$3,974.00

Counter-Cyclical Payments	
F#1157corn	$428.00
F#5070 Corn	$6,108.00
Loan Deficieny Payments (LDP's)	
Soybean	$552.92
Market Gain - soybean	$112.86
Grain Loans-Soybean Ln#17	93,388.00
Facility Loans-Grain Bin	$33,189.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR 2006(includes loans)	$159,676.78 - $361.00 for CRP HAYING & GRAZING
2005	
Crop Disaster Program	$1,584.00
Conservation Reserve Program	$7,220.00
Direct Payment (Guaranteed Payment)	
F#1157 Corn	$274.00
Soybean	$994.00
Wheat	$244.00
F#1234 Corn	0
Soybean	$1,068.00
Wheat	$402.00
F#5070 Corn	$7,056.00
Soybean	$4,664.00
Wheat	$3,974.00
Counter-Cyclical Payments	
F#1157 Corn	$592.00
Soybean	$244.00 - $672.00(refund for CC not earned)
Wheat	-$84.00(refund for CC not earned)
F#1234 Soybean	$262.00 - $450.00 (refund for CC not earned)

Wheat	-$286.00(refund for CC not earned)
F#5070 Corn	$8,432.00
Soybean	$996.00 -$1,876.00 (refund for CC not earned)
Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's)	
Corn	$40,434.39
Market Gain Corn	$2,390.28
Grain Loan Wheat	$13,621.65
Grain Loan Soybean	$93,470.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR '05 including grain loans	$187,922.32 - $3,368.00 (refund for CC not earned)
2004	
Conservation Reserve Program	$7,220.00
Direct Payment (Guaranteed Payment)	
F#1157 Corn	$274.00
Soybean	$994.00
Wheat	$244.00
F#1234 Corn	0
Soybean	$1,068.00
Wheat	$402.00
F#5070 Corn	$7,056.00
Soybean	$4,664.00
Wheat	$3,974.00
Counter-Cyclical Payments	
F#1157 Wheat	$30 - $30.00 (refund for CC not earned)
Corn	$592.00
Soybean	$486 - $486.00 (refund for CC not earned)
F#1234 Wheat	$54 - $54.00 (refund for CC not earned
Corn	0
Soybean	$522 -$522.00 (refund for CC not earned)
F#5070 Wheat	$286 - $286.00 (refund for CC not earned)
Corn	$8,432.00
Soybean	$1990 - $1,990 (refund for CC not earned)

Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP's)	
Corn	$14,089.36
Soybean	$737.80
Grain Loan Corn	$30,171.14
Grain Loan Soybean	$67,890.90
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR '04 including grain loans	$151,177.2 - $3,368.00 (refund for CC not earned)

Attachment H

Crop Insurance Payment

YEAR	CHECK AMOUNT	LOSS AMOUNT	PREMIUM
2008	44147	44147	53674
2007	520	13166	28595
2006	0	1744	18570
2005	42	2160	15348
2004	8289	9297	17630
2003	947	1499	12427
2002	168548	178212	9774
2001	2875	16632	16757
2000	0	8144	16498
1999	0	12341	13229
1998	0		
1997	12297	25366	13069
1996	0	7439	10120

Please note that $43,000 of the check amount from 2008 was actually received in calendar year 2009

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

March 27, 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 Dallas P. Tonsager, who has been nominated by President Obama for the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development, Department of Agriculture.

We have reviewed the report and have also obtained advice from the Department of Agriculture concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is a letter dated March 27, 2009, from Mr. Tonsager to the agency's ethics official, outlining the steps Mr. Tonsager will take to avoid conflicts of interest. Unless a specific date has been agreed to, the nominee must fully comply within three months of his confirmation date with any action he agreed to take in his ethics agreement.

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

Sincerely,

Robert I. Cusick
Director

Enclosures

March 27, 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 describe 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 Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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 understand that, absent a waiver, this recusal obligation precludes my personal and substantial participation in any particular matter that has a direct and predictable effect on my financial interests in 240 acres of real property in Oldham, South Dakota, which is used for farming. 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.

Plainview Farm is a partnership that I formed with one of my brothers. Plainview Farm owns 200 acres of real property in Oldham, South Dakota. My brother manages Plainview Farm. I hold only a passive investment interest in Plainview Farm and am not actively engaged in its operations. As mentioned above, I separately own 240 acres of real property in Oldham, South Dakota. Through an informal arrangement, I allow Plainview Farm to grow crops on that real property. Plainview Farm also leases another parcel of 640 acres of real property on a cash-lease basis from Plainview Land Company, LLC, for the purpose of growing crops.

Plainview Land Company, LLC, is an entity that I formed with my two brothers and one of my sisters. I hold only a passive investment interest in Plainview Land Company, LLC and am not actively engaged in its operations.

During my appointment, I will not manage either Plainview Farm or Plainview Land Company, LLC. During my appointment, I will not provide any other services to either of these entities. Instead, I will continue to receive only passive investment income

from both of them. As Under Secretary, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of Plainview Farm or Plainview Land Company, LLC, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1).

Plainview Land Company, LLC and Plainview Farm each holds a separate financial interest in Lake Area Corn Processors, LLC. Within 90 days of my confirmation, each of these entities will divest its separate interest in Lake Area Corn Processors, LLC. (The current plan is for these divestitures to occur on April 1, 2009; however, if the divestitures do not occur on that date, they will occur not later than 90 days after I am confirmed.) Until these divestitures are completed, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of Lake Area Corn Processors, LLC, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1).

One of my brothers is my general partner in Plainview Farm. I understand that, because he is my general partner, 18 U.S.C. § 208(a) imputes his financial interests to me. He currently holds an interest in Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC. Within 6 months of my confirmation, my brother will divest his financial interest in Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC. Until he completes this divestiture, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1). My brother also owns real property that is used for farming. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that has a direct and predictable effect on the value of this real property or on my brother's farming interests, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1).

Plainview Farm; Plainview Land Company, LLC; and I have loans from the First National Bank of Valentine. In addition, Plainview Farm has loans from John Deere Finance, Case Credit, and American State Bank. Out of an abundance of caution regarding the appearance of impartiality, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in any of these banks is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

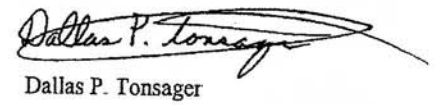
During my tenure as Under Secretary, it is possible that I may serve on the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). You have advised me that USDA does not currently plan to appoint me to CCC's Board of Directors, but the following provisions address measures that I will take in the event of such an appointment in order to resolve an actual or apparent conflict of interest.

In the past, I received payments through CCC's Crop Disaster Program (CDP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and other guaranteed payment programs. CCC has made payments to Plainview Farm; to Plainview Land Company, LLC; to me; and to the brother who is my general partner in Plainview Farm. If I am appointed to CCC's Board of Directors, I will request a limited written waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1)

regarding particular matters of general applicability affecting CCC's payments to Plainview Farm; to Plainview Land Company, LLC; to me; or to the brother who is my general partner in Plainview Farm. Until I obtain such a waiver, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that has a direct and predictable effect on CCC's payments to Plainview Farm; to Plainview Land Company, LLC; to me or to the brother who is my general partner in Plainview Farm.

I understand that any such waiver would be subject to the following two limitations: (1) It would not authorize me to participate personally and substantially as a Board member in any designation of Kingsbury County as entitled to disaster relief from CCC; (2) it would not authorize me to participate personally and substantially as a Board member in any particular matter involving specific parties in which Plainview Farm; Plainview Land Company, LLC; or the brother who is my general partner in Plainview Farm is a party or represent a party; and (3) it would not authorize me to participate personally and substantially as a Board member in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I am a party or represent a party, including any request for a loan or payment from CCC.

Sincerely,



Dallas P. Tonsager

SF 278 (Rev. 03/2000)
5 C.F.R Part 2634
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Form Approved:
OMB No. 3209-0001

Executive Branch Personnel PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

Date of Appointment, Candidacy, Election or Nomination (Month, Day, Year)	Reporting Status (Check appropriate boxes)	Incumbent	Calendar Year Covered by Report	New Entrant, Nominee, or Candidate	Termination Filer	Termination Date (If Applicable) (Month, Day, Year)
		☐		☒	☐	

	Last Name	First Name and Middle Initial
Reporting Individual's Name	Tonsager	Dallas, P.
Position for Which Filing	Title of Position: Under Secretary for Rural Development	Department or Agency (If Applicable): United States Department of Agriculture
Location of Present Office (or forwarding address)	Address (Number, Street, City, State and ZIP Code): 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102	Telephone No. (Include Area Code): 703-883-4000
Position(s) Held with the Federal Government During the Preceding 12 Months (If Not Same as Above)	Title of Position(s) and Date(s) Held: Board Member, Farm Credit Administration December 2004 to Present	

Presidential Nominees Subject to Senate Confirmation	Name of Congressional Committee Considering Nomination	Do You Intend to Create a Qualified Diversified Trust?
	Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry	☐ Yes ☒ No

Certification	Signature of Reporting Individual	Date (Month, Day, Year)
I CERTIFY that the statements I have made on this form and all attached schedules are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.	Dallas P. Tonsager	3/27/09
Other Review (If desired by agency)	Signature of Other Reviewer	Date (Month, Day, Year)
Agency Ethics Official's Opinion On the basis of information contained in this report, I conclude that the filer is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (subject to any comments in the box below)	Signature of Designated Agency Ethics Official/Reviewing Official: R. Alan	Date (Month, Day, Year): 3/27/09
Office of Government Ethics Use Only	Signature: Scott Dahl	Date (Month, Day, Year): 3/27/09

Comments of Reviewing Officials (If additional space is required, use the reverse side of this sheet)

(Check box if filing extension granted & indicate number of days _____) ☐

(Check box if comments are continued on the reverse side) ☐

Fee for Late Filing

Any individual who is required to file this report and does so more than 30 days after the date the report is required to be filed, or, if an extension is granted, more than 30 days after the last day of the filing extension period shall be subject to a $200 fee.

Reporting Periods

Incumbents: The reporting period is the preceding calendar year except Part II of Schedule C and Part I of Schedule D where you must also include the filing year up to the date you file. Part II of Schedule D is not applicable.

Termination Filers: The reporting period begins at the end of the period covered by your previous filing and ends at the date of termination. Part II of Schedule D is not applicable.

Nominees, New Entrants and Candidates for President and Vice President:

Schedule A--The reporting period for income (BLOCK C) is the preceding calendar year and the current calendar year up to the date of filing. Value assets as of any date you choose that is within 31 days of the date of filing.

Schedule B--Not applicable

Schedule C, Part I (Liabilities)--The reporting period is the preceding calendar year and the current calendar year up to any date you choose that is within 31 days of the date of filing.

Schedule C, Part II (Agreements or Arrangements)--Show any agreements or arrangements as of the date of filing.

Schedule D--The reporting period is the preceding two calendar years and the current calendar year up to the date of filing.

Agency Use Only

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MAR 27 2009

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Reporting Individual's Name: Tonsager, Dallas P.

SCHEDULE A

Page Number: 2

Assets and Income (BLOCK A)	Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period (BLOCK B)													Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. (BLOCK C)																
														Type			Amount												
For you, your spouse, and dependent children, report each asset held for investment or the production of income which had a fair market value exceeding $1,000 at the close of the reporting period, or which generated more than $200 in income during the reporting period, together with such income. For yourself, also report the source and actual amount of earned income exceeding $200 (other than from the U.S. Government). For your spouse, report the source but not the amount of earned income of more than $1,000 (except report the actual acount of any honoraria over $200 of your spouse). None ☐	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Exempt Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Dividends	Rent and Royalties	Interest	Capital Gains	None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
Examples: Central Airlines Common			X													X						X										
Examples: Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State				X																											Law Partnership Income $150,000	
Examples: Kempstone Equity Fund					X																			X								
Examples: IRA: Heartland 500 Index Fund													X																			
1 Plainview Farm, Oldham, SD (one-half interest in family partnership) - farms 2000 acres but owns 200 acres							X																								Personal Share of Gross Income $326,252.00	
2 Crops: Corn, Soybeans and Wheat Other Investment: Lake Area Corn Processors, LLC (Produces ethanol			X													X						X										
3 and its by-products)																																
4 Plainview Land Company, LLC, Oldham, SD (one-quarter interest in family LLC) - owns 640 acres which is						X																									Personal Share of Gross Income $16,500.00	
5 leased to Plainview Farm through a cash lease Other Investment: Lake Area Corn			X													X							X									
6 Processors, LLC (Produces ethanol and its by-products)																																

* This category applies only if the asset/income is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the asset/income is either that of the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE A continued (Use only if needed)	Page Number
Tonsager, Dallas P.		3

Assets and Income (BLOCK A)	Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period (BLOCK B)														Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. (BLOCK C)																
															Type			Amount												
	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Dividends	Rent and Royalties	Interest	Capital Gains	None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
None ☐																															
1 Sole Owner of 240 acres of farm land, Oldham, SD (land used for crops by Plainview Farm)						X													X											
2																															
3 Federal Programs Crop Disaster Program Conservation Reserve Program																														$2,730 $1,934	
4 Guaranteed Payment Crop Insurance																														$18,676 $44,147	
5																															
6																															
7																															
8 IRA American State Bank, Oldham, SD (Cash Account)		X																X			X									
9 IRA American State Bank, Oldham, SD (Cash Account)			X															X			X									

* This category applies only if the asset/income is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the asset/income is either that of the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE A continued (Use only if needed)	Page Number
Tonsager, Dallas P.		4

	Assets and Income (BLOCK A)	Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period (BLOCK B)												Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. (BLOCK C)														
														Type				Amount										
	None ☐	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000 *	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Dividends	Rent and Royalties	Interest	Capital Gains	None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
1	IRA Federated Capital Appreciation A		X											X							X												
2	IRA Federated Mid Cap Gr Strategies A		X											X							X												
3	IRA Federated Intercontinental Fund A		X											X							X												
4																																	
5	Wells Fargo Trade Account (Cash Account)		X																		X												
6																																	
7	IRA Wells Fargo First Trust Unit Dow Target	X												X								X											
8	IRA Wells Fargo First Trust Target Traiad Oct 2008			X										X								X											
9																																	

* This category applies only if the asset/income is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the asset/income is either that of the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE A continued (Use only if needed)	Page Number
Tonsager, Dallas P.		5

Assets and Income (BLOCK A)	Valuation of Assets at close of reporting period (BLOCK B)												Income: type and amount. If "None (or less than $201)" is checked, no other entry is needed in Block C for that item. (BLOCK C)													
													Type			Amount										
None ☐	None (or less than $1,001)	$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000 *	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Excepted Investment Fund	Excepted Trust	Qualified Trust	Dividends	Rent and Royalties	Interest	Capital Gain	None (or less than $201)	$201 - $1,000	$1,001 - $2,500	$2,501 - $5,000	$5,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	Over $5,000,000	Other Income (Specify Type & Actual Amount)	Date (Mo., Day, Yr.) Only if Honoraria
1 Inheritance from mother's estate (Cash)																																$20,000	
2																																	
3																																	
4																																	
5																																	
6																																	
7																																	
8																																	
9																																	

* This category applies only if the asset/income is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the asset/income is either that of the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

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Do not Complete Schedule B if you are a new entrant, nominee, Vice Presidential or Presidential Candidate

Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE B	Page Number
Tonsager, Dallas P.		6

Part I: Transactions

None ☐

Report any purchase, sale, or exchange by you, your spouse, or dependent children during the reporting period of any real property, stocks, bonds, commodity futures, and other securities when the amount of the transaction exceeded $1,000. Include transactions that resulted in a loss. Do not report a transaction involving property used solely as your personal residence, or a transaction solely between you, your spouse, or dependent child. Check the "Certificate of divestiture" block to indicate sales made pursuant to a certificate of divestiture from OGE.

	Identification of Assets	Transaction Type (x)			Date (Mo., Day, Yr.)	Amount of Transaction (x)												
		Purchase	Sale	Exchange		$1,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000	Certificate of divestiture
	Example: Centrel Airlines Common	x			2/1/99			x									
1																	
2																	
3																	
4																	
5																	

* This category applies only if the underlying asset is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the underlying asset is either held by the filer or jointly held by the filer with the spouse or dependent children, use the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

Part II: Gifts, Reimbursements, and Travel Expenses

For you, your spouse and dependent children, report the source, a brief description, and the value of: (1) gifts (such as tangible items, transportation, lodging, food, or entertainment) received from one source totaling more than $260; and (2) travel-related cash reimbursements received from one source totaling more than $260. For conflicts analysis, it is helpful to indicate a basis for receipt, such as personal friend, agency approval under 5 U.S.C. § 4111 or other statutory authority, etc. For travel-related gifts and reimbursements, include travel itinerary, dates, and the nature of expenses provided. Exclude anything given to you by the U.S. Government, given to your agency in connection with official travel, received from relatives, received by your spouse or dependent child totally independent of their relationship to you, or provided as personal hospitality at the donor's residence. Also, for purposes of aggregating gifts to determine the total value from one source, exclude items worth $114 or less. See instructions for other exclusions.

None ☐

	Source (Name and Address)	Brief Description	Value
	Examples: Nat'l Assn. of Rock Collectors, NY, NY	Airline ticket, hotel room & meals incident to national conference 6/15/99 (personal activity unrelated to duty)	$500
	Frank Jones, San Francisco, CA	Leather briefcase (personal friend)	$300
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE C	Page Number
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Part I: Liabilities

Report liabilities over $10,000 owed to any one creditor at any time during the reporting period by you, your spouse, or dependent children. Check the highest amount owed during the reporting period. Exclude a mortgage on your personal residence unless it is rented out, loans secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances, and liabilities owed to certain relatives listed in instructions. See instructions for revolving charge accounts.

None ☐

	Creditors (Name and Address)	Type of Liability	Date Incurred	Interest Rate	Term if applicable	Category of Amount or Value (x)												
						$10,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000*	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000
Examples:	First District Bank, Washington, DC	Mortgage on rental property, Delaware	1991	8%	25 yrs			x								
	John Jones, 123 J St., Washington, DC	Promissory note	1999	10 %	on demand					x						
1	John Deere Finance	Loan on Plainview Farm for combine (responsible for one-half)	2007	5.5%	5years			X								
2	Wells Fargo Student Loan	Student Loan	2004	4.25%	25 years			X								
3	American State Bank Oldham, SD	Operating loan on Plainview Farm (responsible for one-half)	2008	8%	1 year				X							
4	Case Credit	Loan on Plainview Farm for tractor	2008	6.75%	4 years			X								
5	Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA	Loan on Plainview Farm for grain bins (responsible for one-half)	2003	3.5%	7 years	X										

* This category applies only if the liability is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the liability is that of the filer or a joint liability of the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories, as appropriate.

Part II: Agreements or Arrangements

Report your agreements or arrangements for: continuing participation in an employee benefit plan (e.g. 401k, deferred compensation); (2) continuation payment by a former employer (including severance payments); (3) leaves of absence; and (4) future employment. See instructions regarding the reporting of negotiations for any of these arrangements or benefits

None ☒

	Status and Terms of any Agreement or Arrangement	Parties	Date
Example:	Pursuant to partnership agreement, will receive lump sum payment of capital account & partnership share calculated on service performed through 1/00	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	7/85
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

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Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE C	Page Number
Tonsager, Dallas P.		8

Part I: Liabilities

Report liabilities over $10,000 owed to any one creditor at any time during the reporting period by you, your spouse, or dependent children. Check the highest amount owed during the reporting period. Exclude a mortgage on your personal residence unless it is rented out; loans secured by automobiles, household furniture or appliances; and liabilities owed to certain relatives listed in instructions. See instructions for revolving charge accounts.

None ☐

	Creditors (Name and Address)	Type of Liability	Date Incurred	Interest Rate	Term if applicable	Category of Amount or Value (x)											
						$10,001 - $15,000	$15,001 - $50,000	$50,001 - $100,000	$100,001 - $250,000	$250,001 - $500,000	$500,001 - $1,000,000	Over $1,000,000	$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	$5,000,001 - $25,000,000	$25,000,001 - $50,000,000	Over $50,000,000
Examples:	First District Bank, Washington, DC	Mortgage on rental property, Delaware	1991	8%	25 yrs.			X								
	John Jones, 123 J St., Washington, DC	Promissory note	1999	10 %	on demand					x						
1	Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA	Loan on Plainview Farm for grain bins (responsible for one-half)	2006	4.625%	7 years		X									
2	First National Bank of Valentine Valentine, NE	Loan on Plainview Farm (responsible for one-half)	2005	5.69%	15 years				X							
3	First National Bank of Valentine Valentine, NE	Loan for Plainview Land Co (responsible for one-quarter)	2005	5.69%	15 years				X							
4	First National Bank of Valentine Valentine, NE	Personal loan for farm land	2005	5.69%	15 years				X							
5	First National Bank of Valentine Valentine, NE	Personal loan for farm land	2006	6.6%	15 years				X							

* This category applies only if the liability is solely that of the filer's spouse or dependent children. If the liability is that of the filer or a joint liability of the filer with the spouse or dependent children, mark the other higher categories, as appropriate.

Part II: Agreements or Arrangements

Report your agreements or arrangements for: continuing participation in an employee benefit plan (e.g. 401k, deferred compensation); (2) continuation payment by a former employer (including severance payments); (3) leaves of absence; and (4) future employment. See instructions regarding the reporting of negotiations for any of these arrangements or benefits.

None ☒

	Status and Terms of any Agreement or Arrangement	Parties	Date
Example:	Pursuant to partnership agreement, will receive lump sum payment of capital account & partnership share calculated on service performed through 1/00.	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	7/85
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Prior Editions Cannot Be Used.

SF 278 (Rev. 03/2000)
5 C.F.R Part 2634
U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Reporting Individual's Name	SCHEDULE D	Page Number
Tonsager, Dallas P.		9

Part I: Positions Held Outside U.S. Government

Report any positions held during the applicable reporting period, whether compensated or not. Positions include but are not limited to those of an officer, director, trustee, general partner, proprietor, representative, employee, or consultant of any corporation, firm, partnership, or other business enterprise or any non-profit organization or educational institution. **Exclude** positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political entities and those solely of an honorary nature.

None ☐

	Organization (*Name and Address*)	Type of Organization	Position Held	From (Mo., Yr.)	To (Mo., Yr.)
Examples:	Nat'l Assn. of Rock Collectors, NY, NY	Non-profit education	President	6/92	Present
	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	Law firm	Partner	7/85	1/00
1	Plainview Farm Oldham, SD	Crop Farm	General Partner (Passive ownership only)	01/76	Present
2	Plainview Land Company LLC Oldham, SD	Farm Land	Member (Passive ownership only)	01/94	Present
3	Mother's Estate (No compensation)	Estate Administration	Co-Personal Representative	1/09	Present
4					
5					
6					

Part II: Compensation In Excess Of $5,000 Paid by One Source

Report sources of more than $5,000 compensation received by you or your business affiliation for services provided directly by you during any one year of the reporting period. This includes the names of clients and customers of any corporation, firm, partnership, or other business enterprise, or any other non-profit organization when you directly provided the services generating a fee or payment of more than $5,000. You need not report the U.S. Government as a source.

Do not complete this part if you are an Incumbent, Termination Filer, or Vice Presidential or Presidential Candidate

None ☒

	Source (*Name and Address*)	Brief Description of Duties
Examples:	Doe Jones & Smith, Hometown, State	Legal services
	Metro University (client of Doe Jones & Smith), Moneytown, State	Legal services in connection with university construction
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Prior Editions Cannot Be Used.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MAY 7, 2009

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Nomination Hearing
Questions for the record
Krysta Harden
May 7, 2009

Senator Charles E. Grassley

1) One of the most important aspects of my work as a Senator is helping Iowan's maneuver the maze of federal bureaucracies. USDA is no different. Typically our county offices are the front line on questions and issues that arise with farmers, but there are times when it's necessary to appeal to supervisors here in Washington to resolve a problem. While I realize the Department's workload is great, explain to me what your goal is for turnaround and response to myself and other members of the committee when these types of situations arise.

Response: Timely response to all Members of Congress is critical and should be automatic. I completely understand the demands and needs of you and your constituents to have information in an appropriate and reasonable manner. Since I have not yet been approved by the Senate I do not fully understand the breakdowns in the current process. However, please be assured, once confirmed I will make it a priority to identify the problems in the systems and work with the Secretary and staff to streamline and make improvements. Once confirmed, I encourage you and your staff to call me directly with any questions or concerns.

Senator John Thune

1) South Dakota was recently hit with severe winter storms. The economic damage may total $25 million with up to 50,000 lost calves and cattle. Can I get your assurance that implanting the Livestock Indemnity Program will be a top priority of yours upon your confirmation?

Response: I empathize with the challenges and hardship that producers in your state and others have experienced due to natural disasters and weather conditions this winter. If confirmed, I commit to working closely with our USDA team, including Under Secretary Jim Miller on this issue. In my roll as Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, if confirmed, my chief responsibility would be to ensure that on issues such as this, your concerns and the views of your constituents are appropriately connected to our policy team and considered as we implement provisions of law. I can also commit that I will work hard to ensure that as policy decisions are made, you will be provided timely and complete information about the programs and services that will be available in your state.

Senator Michael Bennet

First, I'd like to congratulate you on your nomination and take note of your keen recognition of the importance of fair, honest and straightforward dealings between USDA and Congress. I hope you'll continue this practice of healthy communication between agencies and legislative offices as you move into your new role.

1) With that in mind if you are confirmed, I ask you to take particular note of an ongoing situation in Northeastern Colorado where the primary lending institution in the community, New Frontier Bank, was shut down by the FDIC in April. I wrote to Secretary Vilsack bringing the issue to his attention, requesting a transfer of funds from the guaranteed loan program to the direct operating program and I must say both FSA and Congressional Relations have been extremely helpful thus far. The situation in this community is serious—New Frontier's closure has shattered confidence and left farmers in dire straits. As Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, I would just ask you to continue paying due attention to the customers of New Frontier Bank as they try to transition to new banking partners. Can I get you to familiarize yourself with the situation in Northeastern Colorado, and follow up with my staff as you start in your new role?

Response: If confirmed, upon arrival to my new position at USDA I will arrange a briefing at the earliest convenience with the appropriate USDA staff, to gain knowledge about the specifics of financial institution closure in Northeastern Colorado. I would look forward to working with your staff on this issue and gain an understanding of how USDA might assist looking forward.

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Nomination Hearing
Questions for the record
Pearlie S. Reed
May 7, 2009

Chairman Tom Harkin

Civil Rights

Secretary Vilsack has made civil rights a top priority, saying he will not tolerate civil rights violations at the Department. One of the frequent criticisms regarding civil rights at USDA is that, for the hundreds of millions of dollars paid out for civil rights violations, very few individuals have ever been held responsible for their violations.

1) As the Departmental official responsible for human resources, how do you plan to assist Secretary Vilsack in his efforts in this area? What kind of disciplinary policy do you plan to implement for those employees who violate civil rights at the Department?

Response: I believe it is important for leadership to articulate a clear priority and goals. Secretary Vilsack has articulated clear goals and leadership in the area Civil Rights at USDA. Further, it is important for the management structure of the Department to then assign specifics standards and hold employees accountable for their actions. The USDA Office of Civil Rights is in the very capable hands of Dr. Joe Leonard. But all of the USDA leadership and subcabinet must work as a team to ensure implementation of proper policies and procedures. If confirmed, I will assess the current standards and current policies under my purview, and work with my colleagues to ensure that we have the appropriate measures in place to maximize uniformity and compliance at all levels of USDA.

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Nomination Hearing
Questions for the record
Rajiv J. Shah, M.D.
May 7, 2009

Chairman Tom Harkin

Land-grant system

Dr. Shah, you bring a diverse educational background to the position of Under Secretary of Research, Education, and Economics. Part of the job will be to work with our land-grant universities, the institutions that are USDA's partners in research, education, and extension.

1) What do you think can be done to strengthen the ties between the land-grants and the Department of Agriculture?

Response: It is my belief that there are excellent research and development activities taking place among our land grant institutions. However, we need to do a better job of communicating, marketing and coordinating this research along with that taking place within the USDA research entities. If confirmed, I will take the initiative early in my tenure to visit some of these institutions and develop a working relationship in my official capacity.

Extension

As the Under Secretary with responsibility for overseeing the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, you will have deal with the consequences of recent staff reductions in county and state extension offices across the country undertaken due to the need for state governments to reduce spending in the current recession.

2) If you are confirmed, will you commit to work with the extension officials in those states to ensure that services being offered to farmers and other constituent groups are affected as little as possible?

Response: Yes, ensuring that products and services are benefitting those who work the land must be a central premise of our research activities. If confirmed, I will closely examine the relationship of our exiting field structure and seek advice from our extension officials on ways to maximize the benefits to farmers and other constituent groups.

Plant and Animal Improvement

There is a concern with some in the scientific community that not enough financial support or scientists have been dedicated towards conventional plant and animal breeding, that is, the production of new plant varieties and lines of animals that are not genetically engineered. Having plant varieties that are suitable for specific regions and environmental conditions is especially important to organic producers.

3) As Under Secretary, how do you plan on reinvigorating research, and ensuring there are adequate scientists to produce new seed varieties and lines of animals that are not genetically engineered?

Response: From my experience at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, I have had the pleasure and opportunity of working firsthand on many of the issues that you describe. For example, I have partnered on projects geared toward the development of drought resistant crops that can benefit producers who face emerging water shortages due to a variety of factors. I have been pleased in the partnerships that I have participated in with seed centers and the development of new seed varieties. Clearly, this kind of research has led agriculture to where it is today. Furthermore, the future of agriculture depends upon the initiative and resources that we place in this area now. If confirmed, I would like to bring that experience and new leadership to those functions at the USDA.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

In the 2008 farm bill, Congress created a National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to strengthen competitively-awarded agricultural research funding and to focus on the infrastructure needs of the land-grant university system. Many in the scientific research community are excited about this change.

4) Please comment on how you view NIFA's role in the REE mission area.

Response: While I am not yet at the Department, I have been enthused to learn about the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The concept is well founded, and I know that it is something that Members spent a great deal of time and attention as part of the Farm Bill. Before I can outline specifics about my views on implementation of the NIFA, I would like to have a chance to better study the structure, mission and goals of the NIFA as established in statute, within the context of our ongoing research work at USDA. If confirmed, one of the first things that I will do is work with you and your staff to more fully discuss next steps in implementing the NIFA.

Senator Blanche Lincoln

Congress has put a significant amount of effort towards the development of cellulosic biofuels in recent years.

The 2007 Energy Bill included an expanded Renewable Fuels Standard that mandates 21 billion gallons of cellulosic ethanol production by 2022 with a significant ramp up beginning in the 2011/2012 timeframe.

The 2008 Farm Bill included $1 billion in mandatory funding to help spur the next generation of renewable fuels production through programs like the Bioenergy Loan Guarantee Program and the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels. In addition, it authorized the Biomass Crop Assistance Program which is designed to help with establishment of dedicated energy crops.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided significant funding for renewable energy development including providing DOE with $800 million for biofuels investments.

A significant portion of the effort, to date, has focused on helping develop cellulosic conversion technologies and finance the construction of demonstration and commercial cellulosic conversion facilities to convert cellulosic material into renewable fuels.

Of course, in order to meet the mandates in the RFS, we will also need to quickly ramp up the production of dedicated energy crops. While research is under way to scale dedicated energy crop production in the private sector, we need to ensure that the Federal government is helping foster and speed this research.

1) Do you agree that USDA needs to take a more active role in helping foster the development of dedicated energy crop feedstocks and that the Federal Government needs to focus additional funding commitments in this area?

Response: Your question provides an excellent explanation on the background on this issue and the rationale for why we need to do more in this area. Secretary Vilsack has clearly articulated that we need to do all we can to further the development of renewable energy. It is clear that we cannot move at a slow pace on energy conservation and energy development. The issues you raise in your question point out key areas that we need to accelerate. If confirmed, I look forward to assisting Secretary Vilsack to further spur this effort. I would also like to dialogue further with you on this topic to ensure that we have a common understanding – especially regarding ways that energy crops and feedstocks suitable to southern climates and soils can be best utilized and developed.

Senator Saxby Chambliss

1) The U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services are charged with the responsibility of jointly reviewing and updating the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) every 5 years. As stated in the introduction of the DGAs, "the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, first published in 1980, provides science-based advice to promote health and to reduce risk for chronic diseases through diet and physical activity. The recommendations contained within the *Dietary Guidelines* are targeted to the general public over 2 years of age who are living in the United States. Because of its focus on health promotion and risk reduction, the *Dietary Guidelines* form the basis of federal food, nutrition education, and information programs." Dr. Shah, do you agree that the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* should form the basis of federal food, nutrition education and information programs?

Response: If confirmed, I look forward to supporting the development of the next round of Dietary Guidelines. I understand that the process for publishing the 2010 Dietary Guidelines is underway at the Department. As you know, better health and more nutritious diets for Americans are a top priority for President Obama and Secretary Vilsack. Without question, the Dietary Guidelines serve a central function and are vitally important to ensuring that the public receives accurate and timely advice based upon sound science and the latest available information.

Senator Ben Nelson

1) Many of the most pressing issues of the day are related to agriculture –such as, food security for the US and the world as the population increases by 40 percent by 2050 and diets become more protein rich; water quantity and quality, especially water availability for agriculture; development of biofuels to reduce dependence upon foreign oil supplies; and the impact of climate on food production and forestry.
   - What is your vision for USDA research on these issues?
   - How can we ensure a more robust researeh environment that appropriately takes into account the agricultural system and the needs of US farmers and ranchers?

Response: From my experience at with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, I have had the pleasure and opportunity of working firsthand on many of the issues that you describe. I have often been surprised at the level of synergy between the emerging issues that U.S. agriculture faces and the challenges of sustainable agriculture in the other parts of the globe. For example, research performed by Cornell University on wheat rust is applicable to Sub-Saharan Africa as it can be used to gain better knowledge for production in the United States. Similarly, the development of drought resistant crops can benefit producers who face water emerging water shortages due to a variety of factors. In many respects the Green Revolution, which meant so much to ensuring better productivity and abundance of

food, can be taken a step further in terms of ensuring sustainability and food production under adverse and changing conditions. If confirmed, I look forward to gaining an assessment of the research that we have underway. Further, it will be of vital importance that we better coordinate our research efforts and to gain maximum benefits and leverage resources.

Senator Charles E. Grassley

1) The last decade has continued to see a decline in the priority for agricultural research dollars being appropriated. This is really unfortunate, especially in a time where agriculture is being asked to both feed and fuel our economy. What do you see as your role in helping correct or offset some of this downward pressure on critical research that will continue to grow agricultural technology?

Response: If confirmed, I look forward to gaining an assessment of the research that we have underway. It will also be a priority for me to ensure that we better coordinate our research efforts to gain maximum benefits and leverage resources. I would certainly see my roll within USDA to lead the development of a clear strategy for our research mission across agencies and even across inter-Departmental lines. Further, I would view my roll, if confirmed, as a strong advocate for the resources that will be needed within USDA, within the framework of the Department and the Executive Branches priorities and strategic goals.

I believe that a critical step is to better connect communications with our research efforts. Without question, we need to ensure scientific excellence. But we also need to do a better job of communicating the research and ensuring that the findings reach the end user and result in meaningful actions. It is my belief that communications can help bridge the gap that your question raises. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you to further this objective.

Senator John Thune

1) The Sun Grant Initiative is a university research and education program that addresses national priorities to develop bioenergy and bioproducts at regional and local levels. USDA is an important partner in this program. Do you believe the Sun Grant Initiative is an effective structure for coordinating university research activities for certain renewable energy research efforts?

Response: If confirmed, I look forward to working closely on this issue and gaining insight into the ongoing work of the Sun Grant Initiative. The development of biofuels and renewable energy is a top priority that Secretary Vilsack has articulated for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is my understanding that Sun Grant Initiative research

provides valuable information on topics such as the suitability of certain variety of switchgrass to specific locations and best ways to utilize biomass for energy production. If confirmed, I look forward to working on this topic and assessing how we can coordinate it with other ongoing research initiatives that we have underway.

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Nomination Hearing
Questions for the record
Dallas P. Tonsager
May 7, 2009

Chairman Tom Harkin

Economic Recovery Funding

The economic recovery bill provided significant resources for Rural America through USDA programs – particularly the Broadband and Water and Waste Disposal Program. Funding in these programs provide a significant opportunity to create jobs and to improve our rural infrastructure.

The public comment period for changes made to the broadband program in the 2008 farm bill is still open. Despite this, the Department needs to be aggressive to get the $2.5 billion provided in the recovery bill out the door with the greatest speed possible and consistent with solid administration so that rural areas can have access to broadband service, which will also create jobs and business opportunities in rural America.

1) If confirmed will you work to get economic recovery funding on the ground as quickly as possible, while maintaining accountability and transparency to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being invested as effectively and efficiently as possible?

Response: Yes. It is important that the funds reach customers as soon as possible in order to achieve the intended result of creating and saving jobs and providing the needed stimulation to the nation's financial system. While I have not been part of the current implementation process, I understand that the purposes for conducting public input sessions was to ensure that we are making the most of this unique opportunity to reach areas and customers that might not otherwise have access to broadband. I am enthusiastic to take part in this process and realize the full opportunity that the Recovery Act provides.

Renewable Energy

You have spent most of your life in and around agriculture and rural communities. In your various roles of leadership and responsibility, I believe that you have seen firsthand how valuable initiatives like the energy programs in the two most recent farm bills are to rural American and our nation as a whole. Giving a high priority to implementing the energy programs in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 is both important and urgent as we strive develop cleaner, domestic energy resources and to reduce our dependence on imported oil.

2) Do you share this view of the urgency and importance of the energy title programs?

Response: I agree with Secretary Vilsack's sentiment that we need to continue to develop biofuels and other sources of renewable energy to continue to enhance our energy security. It is clear that we cannot continue to move at a slow pace on energy conservation and energy development. If confirmed, I look forward to assisting Secretary Vilsack to further spur this effort.

3) How will you ensure a high priority for carrying them out?

Response: It is important that leadership provide specific goals that are clearly articulated to the organization. Secretary Vilsack has set this tone and expressed clear direction to the USDA organization in the area of energy conservation and renewable fuels development. If confirmed, I look forward to setting more specific goals and strategies within my mission area and holding employees to positive standards and measurable outcomes.

Proposed and Interim Rules for Loan and Grant Programs

On October 15, 2008, the U.S. Department of Agriculture published a proposed rule that would eliminate or revise the grant regulations for eight existing programs and consolidate them under one single regulation. In a similar manner, on December 17, 2008 USDA published an interim rule that would eliminate existing regulations for four loan programs and consolidate them into a single regulation.

I support program delivery being least burdensome and streamlined, but what has been developed appears to instead cause more confusion given that the programs have wide-ranging goals, eligibility criteria, and statutorily mandated set asides.

The proposed rule and interim rule fail to address program changes included in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) specifically in regard to the distribution and marketing of locally-grown foods, require a burdensome overhaul of operating procedures due to consolidation, and make changes that could have a negative impact on program participation.

4) Can I have your assurances that you will review the proposed rule and interim rule and work to develop new rules that will not compromise program delivery?

Response: If confirmed, I look forward to conferring with our program experts with experience and background on the issue that you raise. I will work to gain a clear understanding of past policy in this matter including any relevant legal counsel or advice. From that point, I would look forward to initiating any further implementation actions that might be appropriate.

5) Will you fully implement the changes contained in the 2008 farm bill for USDA loan and grant programs, specifically for the distribution and marketing of locally-grown foods?

Response: As you know, supporting and developing fresh and local sources of food is a priority for Secretary Vilsack. If confirmed, I too, will take steps to support local and fresh foods and examine more closely the issues that you raise. I would look forward to initiating further actions that might be appropriate, and working with you on this very important issue.

6) Can I have your assurances that you will help the Department develop a comprehensive and coordinated action and outreach plan for locally grown foods across all agencies?

Response: While I am not yet in position at the Department, I understand that many positive actions have been initiated or have taken place within the past three months to further the objective of locally grown foods. If confirmed, I would want to seek ways to integrate these activities across mission areas to ensure that we are not duplicating efforts and that we are not missing any key areas of opportunity. I look forward to coordinating with my prospective colleagues in the subcabinet and the staff at the Department.

Rural Housing

Even before the financial crisis, it was hard to argue that rural America was not already in economic distress. Rural communities tend to have higher poverty and unemployment rates than metropolitan areas and rural communities have higher incidence of substandard housing and rent overburden. The previous administration limited new housing loans for low income families to only about 10,000 units per year.

7) What steps will you and this administration take to increase the availability of direct housing loans for home ownership and rural rental housing?

Response: Implementation of the American Reinvestment and Recovery At of 2008 will be a key component of this effort. If confirmed, I will look closely at our ongoing efforts in housing loans. But beyond this, and beyond the limited funding provided in the Recovery Act, I would like to work with our team on longer terms plans and strategic objectives – not just a means of mitigating the current financial crisis – but instead to prepare for tomorrow and provide housing opportunities for future generations.

Senator Saxby Chambliss

1) Section 6101 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amended the Rural Utilities Service program that provides "Guarantees for Bonds and Notes Issued for Electrification or Telephone Purposes." We understand that the RUS currently is finalizing regulations to implement this section of the Farm Bill. Please provide the committee with an update of RUS' progress in finalizing the regulation implementing this section of law along with an estimate of the effective date for the final regulation.

Response: While I am not currently in a position at the Department to respond, if confirmed, I can commit to providing you an update on this issue as requested.

Senator Ben Nelson

1) The Recovery Act provides RUS with $2.5 billion for loans, loan guarantees, and grants for "broadband infrastructure" for rural areas "without sufficient access to high speed broadband service to facilitate rural economic development." Have you decided which projects should be funded by grants, and which by loans and loan guarantees?

Response: President Obama and Secretary Vilsack have clearly articulated that improving access to broadband is a critical component to rural development. Though I am not yet confirmed, my understanding is that both the Rural Utilities Service and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration held a series of listening sessions and opened a public comment period to solicit ideas on how best to target Recovery Act broadband investments. If confirmed, I will make it a priority to quickly implement the broadband provisions in the Recovery Act.

2) While the law defines many of the key terms, how would you define "rural area"? How would you define "unserved"? How would you define "underserved"?

Response: Unfortunately, the United States lags many industrialized countries in terms of broadband access, average speeds, cost of service, and adoption rates. Our rural communities have fallen behind urban and suburban locations in these critical metrics. Broadband service is the critical infrastructure of the 21st Century, and communities that lack access to service face obstacles in attracting human capital and businesses. For these reasons, I believe that it's critically important for RUS and NTIA to establish a transparent and targeted Recovery Act broadband program that takes steps toward improving broadband access. I understand that these definitions are currently being developed, and if confirmed, I look forward to working on this project with you.

3) The Recovery Act provides $4.35 billion to NTIA for broadband programs. I am pleased to see that RUS and NTIA have been holding joint forums to take public input on the Recovery Act broadband programs. Do you anticipate that RUS and NTIA will adopt common application forms and procedures and common post-grant reporting and monitoring tools? Would a consistent approach best promote the rapid deployment of funds and job creation intended by the Recovery Act?

Response: In my view, there are a number of important goals to advance in implementing the broadband provisions of the Recovery Act. Progress must be made to enhance access to high-speed internet service in rural communities. We should improve our knowledge of current service levels through broadband mapping. Efforts should be pursued to improve broadband demand. In addition to these outcome goals, it is important for USDA and the Department of Commerce to seek process goals that ensure rapid deployment and job creation, transparency in implementation, and a minimal burden on applicants. To the

extent possible, the programs should share common application forms and procedures and other program components that will reduce applicant burden and allow for consistent data reporting. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you to advance these goals.

4) In normal economic times, it is often very difficult for new start ups and microbusinesses to secure the necessary funding to finance their initial costs, as well as any expansion efforts. Because of this, I along with Senator Stabenow and now Interior Secretary Salazar worked for the inclusion of the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP) in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill). RMAP is designed to provide technical and financial assistance, as well as capacity building, to the very small businesses and sole proprietorships. Section 6022 of the 2008 Farm Bill authorized RMAP and provided $4 million in mandatory funding for Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09) and FY10, as well as $3 million for FY11.

   Unfortunately, as you are too well aware, the downturn in our nation's economy has exacerbated the situation for small businesses seeking credit. Many start-ups and small microbusinesses are now turning to community development organization to provide financing or loans because banks are no longer willing to provide the necessary capital for new businesses and expansions. Because of this situation, I, along with eleven of my colleagues wrote to Secretary Vilsack this past March; urging him to expedite the implementation RMAP and issue a request for the FY09 Funds. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to include the full authorized amount in the FY10 budget and ask you how far along is the Department in implementing RMAP and releasing it FY09 money?

Response: While I am not currently in a position at the Department to report out on the Department's progress in implementing Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program, if confirmed, I can commit to providing you an update on this issue as requested. As you know, the Administration has released its budget request for FY 2010. RMAP has received a substantial commitment in this budget request including the $4 million in mandatory funding and an additional request of $22 million in discretionary funding. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on this very important program.

Senator Pat Roberts

1) Last year, as part of the Farm Bill, Congress worked hard to improve the RUS broadband program by allowing for increased eligibility, more attractive terms and conditions, and a streamlined program. I understand that RUS has prepared rules to implement these reforms, but has yet to release them. When can we expect to see those rules? Do you intend to adopt them to govern the award of funds made available to RUS in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act?

Response: Unfortunately, the United States lags many industrialized countries in terms of broadband access, average speeds, cost of service, and adoption rates. Our rural communities have fallen behind urban and suburban locations in these critical metrics. Broadband service is the critical infrastructure of the 21st Century, and communities that lack access to service face obstacles in attracting human capital and businesses. For these reasons, I believe that it's critically important for RUS and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to establish a transparent and targeted Recovery Act broadband program that takes steps toward improving broadband access. Though I am not certain when the Farm Bill broadband program rules will be published or how these rules will interact with the rules for the Recovery Act broadband program, if confirmed, I will make it a priority to be briefed on these issues and work with you to successfully implement the provisions of both the Farm Bill and Recovery Act.

2) Do you agree that the first priority of this program should be to bring broadband Internet to rural households and businesses that currently have no access? What steps will you take to make sure that rural broadband funds are targeted toward rural households and businesses that have no access to broadband?

Response: President Obama and Secretary Vilsack have clearly articulated that improving access to broadband is a critical component to rural development. Though I am not yet confirmed, my understanding is that both the Rural Utilities Service and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration held a series of listening sessions and opened a public comment period to solicit ideas on how best to target Recovery Act broadband investments. If confirmed, I will make it a priority to quickly implement the broadband provisions in the Recovery Act in a way that addresses the critical challenges to rural economic development.

3) How will you assess the sustainability of a project? Will you require applicants to present a business case demonstrating that they will be able to operate the project after it is built without the need for continuing public subsidies? Further, have you given any thought as to which projects should be funded by grants, and which should be funded by loans or loan guarantees? Do you have adequate staff to review and process applications?

Response: Project sustainability is a critical issue to the successful use of taxpayer resources. In my view, this issue is important for projects funded by both loans and grants. In the past, the Rural Utilities Service has used a variety of mechanisms to assess project sustainability, and RUS has a long track record of implementing programs in rural communities in a way that ensures taxpayer resources are wisely invested. If confirmed, I will make it a priority to be briefed on the Recovery Act broadband provisions and will review the issues of sustainability you raise in your questions. I understand that RUS has

the capacity to use both loans and grants in funding worthy applications. If confirmed, I will review how best to use these funding mechanisms to leverage other sources of capital and will review staffing plans to ensure that sufficient resources are applied to this important project.

Senator Charles E. Grassley

1) In 2005 an Inspector General report identified problems with the rural broadband program not focusing on rural communities without preexisting service. Instead the department was funding projects in suburban areas and in parts of the country where service was already provided by existing broadband suppliers. What steps will you take to make sure that rural broadband funds actually go to rural areas? Please outline your plan to make sure these situations identified by the IG will not occur again.

Response: My understanding is that the feedback provided by the Inspector General was a critical component in the reforms to the broadband program included in the 2008 Farm Bill. According to the report, the Rural Utilities Service was making investments in parts of the country with existing providers, due in large part to the fact that the program was limited to loans rather than grant/loan combinations. The updated program has greater flexibility in this regard, which should enhance its capacity to focus on unserved, rural communities. If confirmed, I will review the current program rules to ensure that it makes improvements in keeping with the findings of the Inspector General report.

2) As you know from your time as the South Dakota State Director for Rural Development, guaranteed lending is a large portion of the RD mission, and a critical tool for rural and small businesses. In fact, Iowa uses this tool more than any other state. Please describe your goals and objectives as it relates to guaranteed lending and what types of businesses you intend to focus the program on.

Response: Given the current economic conditions and the austere resources available within private lending institutions, it will be more important than ever, that our guaranteed lending resources be applied strategically and carefully in rural America. If confirmed, I look forward to working with our Departmental program experts, consulting with our field staff, and conferring with you and other Members of the Committee to ensure that strategic objectives are being met that will result in maximum economic gain to rural areas.

Senator John Thune

1) As you know, the Rural Utilities Service has over $2 billion in funding for rural broadband development. I understand that the notice of funds availability may not go out until late June and after the applications are evaluated, awards may not be made until next fall. As you know all too well, it gets very difficult to lay fiber late in the fall when the ground is frozen. What can we do to ensure the broadband grants and loans go out in a timely manner? How can we focus on the truly unserved areas for broadband assistance?

Response: Unfortunately, the United States lags many industrialized countries in terms of broadband access, average speeds, cost of service, and adoption rates. Our rural communities have fallen behind urban and suburban locations in these critical metrics. Broadband service is the critical infrastructure of the 21st Century, and communities that lack access to service face obstacles in attracting human capital and businesses. President Obama and Secretary Vilsack have clearly articulated that improving access to broadband is a critical component to rural development. Though I am not yet confirmed, my understanding is that both the Rural Utilities Service and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration held a series of listening sessions and opened a public comment period to solicit ideas on how best to target Recovery Act broadband investments. If confirmed, I will make it a priority to quickly implement the broadband provisions in the Recovery Act.

2) For broadband stimulus eligibility, some parties have suggested "open access" conditions that would insert RUS into a very regulatory role for broadband networks. What are your thoughts on this issue, and how can we ensure that RUS does not get caught up in a "net neutrality debate" that may ultimately slow the implementation of the program?

Response: My understanding is that definitions and criteria for the Recovery Act broadband program are under development, following a series of listening sessions and public comment period designed to ensure public input into the process. If confirmed, I will review progress toward implementation of the Recovery Act broadband program.

3) This week, the EPA announced very controversial new rules that punish ethanol for land use activities from around the world. Do you believe ethanol and biofuels are a net sink of greenhouse gas emissions? Do you believe domestically produced ethanol should be discounted for land use changes from around the globe?

Response: I agree with Secretary Vilsack's sentiment that we need to reach further into the potential for biofuels and allow ethanol to continue to play a role in that strategy. If confirmed, I look forward to exploring specific research and data regarding the net effect of biofuels with respect to greenhouse gas emissions. However, it seems clear that we cannot continue to move at the slow pace that we have in the past on biofuel development. If confirmed, I look forward to assisting Secretary Vilsack to further spur this effort.

4) The Sun Grant Initiative is a university research and education program that addresses national priorities to develop bioenergy and bioproducts at regional and local levels. USDA is an important partner in this program. Do you believe the Sun Grant Initiative is an effective structure for coordinating university research activities for certain renewable energy research efforts?

Response: If confirmed, I look forward to working closely on this issue and gaining insight into the ongoing work of the Sun Grant Initiative. The development of biofuels and

renewable energy is a top priority that Secretary Vilsack has articulated for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is my understanding that Sun Grant Initiative research provides valuable information on topics such as the suitability of certain variety of switchgrass to specific locations and best ways to utilize biomass for energy production. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Dr. Shah and others on this topic and assessing how we can coordinate it with other ongoing research initiatives and programs that we have underway.

5) The largest part of the Under Secretary for Rural Development's loan portfolio is the Electric Portion. The electric co-op model has been instrumental in keeping consumer rates down in Rural America. RUS financing has been important factor in maintaining affordable rates in rural areas, can I depend on you to continue to support the Electric Loan Program? Electric Co-ops nation-wide generate about half the electricity they need. Can I depend on you to support Electric Co-op Base Load Generation?

Response: I have had a long history and a great deal of positive experience with Rural Cooperatives over the years. It is clear that this portion of the rural development mission continues to play a central roll in service to rural America. If confirmed, I look forward to being in a leadership roll to best utilize, strengthen and prepare our rural electric services for the future.

Senator Michael Bennet

1) A concern I hear from constituents while traveling across Colorado is that stimulus funds come easier for entities that have previously received federal funding. While time is of the essence since this injection of funds into our economy is needed immediately, I am concerned that haste may leave some small businesses and rural communities out of the running for these critically important resources. If confirmed, how will you as Undersecretary for Rural Development seek to include more small firms and smaller projects? Often, these are the ones with the most immediate impact on families and job creation.

Response: If confirmed, I will work expeditiously to gain a full understanding of how resources are allocated under the Recovery Act. Rural Development resources and programs often reach localities that are traditionally underserved by federal programs and agencies at large. The key is to ensure that those entities that are underserved within Rural Development constituencies have a fair opportunity to receive support. One of the central needs in this regard is for effective outreach and communication, and this is a priority for me. I look forward to working on this issue and ensuring that the multiple objectives of the stimulus bill, including job creation/protection are balanced in an appropriate manner.

2) Can you assure me that you will be creative and aggressive in efforts to get stimulus resources out to rural communities, groups, and organizations?

Response: If confirmed, this will be an important priority of my work. The key is to ensure that entities that are underserved within Rural Development constituencies have a fair opportunity to receive support. One of the central needs in this regard is for effective outreach and communication, and this is a priority for me. I look forward to working with you to improve and strengthen our efforts in this regard.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

MAY 7, 2009

April 27, 2009

Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
328-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Chambliss:

We are writing in support of the nomination of Krysta Harden as Assistant Secretary of Congressional Relations at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Ms. Harden has dedicated her professional career to agricultural policy, and she is well-qualified for this position. She understands the importance of coalition building and has a full understanding of how USDA can work hand-in-hand with Congress.

Ms. Harden grew up on a family farm in Georgia. She has first-hand knowledge of how policies that Congress and the Administration develop impact producers at a grassroots level.

Ms. Harden worked in the U.S. House of Representatives for twelve years, including serving as Staff Director of the House Agriculture Committee Subcommittee on Peanuts and Tobacco. She subsequently worked on renewable energy, transportation, research, conservation and nutrition policy for a number of producer-led agriculture organizations, including the American Soybean Association and the National Biodiesel Board.

For the last five years, Ms. Harden has been Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Conservation Districts, working to promote adoption of conservation practices in local communities, by agricultural operations, and on forest lands. As head of a major national conservation organization, she demonstrated commitment to protection of natural resources while proving her leadership skills in managing and serving a broad-based membership.

Throughout her career, Ms. Harden has been recognized for her integrity and ability to work with diverse stakeholders. She will be an outstanding liaison between USDA and Congress. We urge you to approve the nomination of Krysta Harden as Assistant Secretary of Congressional Relations at USDA.

Sincerely,

Ag Processing Inc (AGP)
Agricultural Retailers Association
Amcot
American Association of Crop Insurers

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Farmland Trust
American Forest Foundation
American Mushroom Institute
American Peanut Shellers Association
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
Biobased Products Coalition
C & H Sugar Company, Inc.
Center for Agricultural Partnerships
CropLife America
Domino Foods, Inc.
Environmental Defense Fund
Florida Crystals Corporation
Food Marketing Institute
Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
Hardwood Federation
Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Crop Insurance Agents
National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils
National Association of State Conservation Agencies
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Biodiesel Board
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Conservation District Employees Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Organization
National Farmers Union
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Potato Council
National Renderers Association
National Sunflower Association
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
Pollinator Partnership
Produce Marketing Association
Public Lands Council
Rain and Hail, LLC
Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc.
Rural Community Insurance Services
Society of American Florists
Society of American Foresters

South East Dairy Farmers Association
Soyfoods Association of North America
Sweetener Users Association
The Florida Sugar Cane League
The Macon Edwards Company
United Egg Producers
United Egg Association
United Fresh Produce Association
US Apple Association
US Beet Sugar Association
US Canola Association
US Rice Producers Association
United States Sugar Corporation
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice Federation
Western Peanut Growers Association
Wildlife Mississippi

GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY COMMISSION FOR PEANUTS

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FAX 229-386-3501
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Executive Director

Member
Peanut Advisory Board

May 1, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Chambliss:

The Georgia Peanut Commission is pleased to support the nomination of Krysta Harden as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Congressional Relations. Krysta is a native Georgian having spent her early years on a family farm. She has extensive experience in agriculture serving on the staff of former U.S. Congressman Charles Hatcher, a former subcommittee Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. Krysta has also served as a senior staff person on the House Agriculture Committee.

Krysta has most recently held the position of Chief Executive Officer at the National Association of Conservation Districts.

The peanut industry has worked closely with Krysta and believes she will be an excellent member of the leadership team at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

If you have any questions relative to her nomination, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Armond Morris

Armond Morris
Chairman

DONALD DANFORTH
PLANT SCIENCE CENTER

For additional information, contact:
Karla Goldstein (314) 587-1231
kgoldstein@danforthcenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DANFORTH CENTER APPLAUDS OBAMA APPOINTMENT TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ST. LOUIS, MO, April 17, 2009 –President Barack Obama today announced his intent to nominate Rajiv J. Shah, M.D., as Under Secretary of Research, Education and Economics (REE) and Chief Scientist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Shah will serve with Secretary Tom Vilsack. This came as welcome news to the leadership of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center.

"The selection of Dr. Shah is a clear signal that Secretary Vilsack and the Obama Administration are serious about strengthening the culture of agricultural research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Shah, armed with fresh perspective, immense accomplishment, and the respect of his peers will invigorate agricultural research and bring more scientific thinking to the top levels of USDA. Thirty years of stagnating budgets and under funding of open competitive research must be corrected so American agriculture meets the challenge of a growing world population, hungry for food and fuel and needing to use fewer inputs. Improvements in food security, safety, better nutrition, biofuel development and environmental stewardship are rooted in agriculture and the research that fuels its innovation. I congratulate Dr. Shah and wish him well as he elevates USDA science to address these challenges for the betterment of America and the world," said William H. Danforth chairman, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center.

Rajiv Shah, Nominee for Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, United States Department of Agriculture

Rajiv J. Shah is the Director of Agricultural Development in the Global Development Program for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation where he manages the Foundation's Agricultural Development program – including grant-making portfolios in science and technology,

farmer productivity, market access, and policy and statistics – with the goal of helping the world's poor lead healthy and productive lives. Shah joined the Foundation in 2001 and previously served as the Foundation's Director of Strategic Opportunities and Deputy Director of Policy and Finance for Global Health. In these roles, he helped develop and launch the Foundation's Global Development Program and the International Finance Facility for Immunization – an effort that raised more than $5 billion for child immunization and hopes to save more than five million lives around the world. Prior to joining the Foundation, Shah was the health care policy advisor on the Gore 2000 presidential campaign and a member of Governor Ed Rendell's transition committee on health. Shah is the co-founder of Health Systems Analytics and Project IMPACT for South Asian Americans. In addition, he has served as a policy aide in the British Parliament and worked at the World Health Organization. Currently, Shah serves on the boards of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, the Seattle Public Library, and the Seattle Community College District. Dr. Shah earned his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and Master of Science in health economics at the Wharton School of Business. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the London School of Economics and has published articles on health policy and global development. In 2007, he was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

About The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center

Founded in 1998, the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center is a not-for-profit research institute with a mission to improve the human condition through plant science. Research at the Danforth Center will feed the hungry and improve human health, preserve and renew the environment, and enhance the St. Louis region and Missouri as a world center for plant science. Please visit www.danforthcenter.org for additional information.

April 21, 2009

Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate

Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
United States Senate

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Chambliss:

Prior to the Easter Congressional recess we sent a letter to express our strong support for the nomination of Dallas Tonsager as Under Secretary of Rural Development at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). As the confirmation hearing was rescheduled for following the recess and a number of additional groups that expressed a desire to add their support for Dallas's nomination we wish to again submit for the record our letter of support including all the organizations that support his nomination.

Dallas has many years of direct, diverse and successful involvement in U.S. agriculture and in public service on behalf of America's farmers, ranchers and farmer-owned cooperatives. Dallas has been a very successful farmer and continues to maintain ownership in his family farm in partnership today. Dallas served as South Dakota's state executive director for USDA Farmers Home Administration/Rural Development from 1993 to 2001. Following that service Dallas served as executive director for the South Dakota Value-Added Agriculture Development Center from 2002 to 2004. Senator Tom Daschle suggested that Dallas serve on the board of the Farm Credit Administration, and President George W. Bush nominated Dallas to the three-member board. Dallas was confirmed by the United States Senate in November 2004. In addition to the service listed above, Dallas served agriculture as an active member and then as president of the South Dakota Farmers Union, the largest general farm organization in the state.

His experience and background prepared Dallas extremely well to serve as Under Secretary for Rural Development. Dallas has helped rural communities address their needs for water and sewer upgrades. He's assisted in building local hospitals and meeting the challenge of affordable local housing. His experience in farming, rural development, and cooperative financing provides him with the knowledge to assist rural America as we approach a future with new opportunities in renewable energy development, marketing food locally, bringing broadband to rural citizens, and choosing sustainable development.

We offer our full support for Dallas Tonsager. We urge the committee and the full Senate to act swiftly to approve his nomination.

Sincerely,

Arkansas Rural Enterprise Center
Little Rock, AR

California Center for Cooperative Development
Davis, CA

CoBank
Washington, D.C.

Common Enterprise Development Corporation
Mandan, ND

Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF)
Davis, CA
Cooperation Works!
Ames, IA

Cooperative Development Institute
South Deerfield, MA

Cooperative Development Services
St. Paul, MN

Indiana Cooperative Development Center
Indianapolis, IN

Iowa Alliance for Cooperative Business Development
Ames, IA

Iowa Farmers Union
Chris Peterson, President

Kansas Farmers Union
Donn Teske, President

Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development
Elizabethtown, KY

Keystone Development Center
Flinton, PA

Mississippi Center for Cooperative Development
Jackson, MS

Missouri Farmers Union
Russ Kremer, President

Montana Farmers Union
Brooks Dailey, Past President

National Farmers Union
Roger Johnson, President

National Farmers Union
Claudia Svarstad, Vice President

National Network of Forest Practitioners
Athens, OH

Nebraska Cooperative Development Center
Lincoln, NE

Nebraska Farmers Union
John Hansen, President

New England Farmers Union
Annie Cheatham, President

North Dakota Rural Electric & Telecommunications Development Center
Mandan, ND

Northwest Cooperative Development Center
Olympia, WA

Oklahoma Farmers Union
Terry Detrick, President

Ohio Cooperative Development Center
Piketon, OH

Ohio Farmers Union
Roger Wise, President

Oregon Farmers Union
Dan Joyce, President

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Kent Peppler, President

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Cooperative Development Center
Greenwood Village, CO

South Dakota Farmers Union
Doug Somke, President

South Dakota Value-Added Agriculture Development Center
Pierre, SD

Texas Farmers Union
Wes Sims, President

Utah Farmers Union
Arthur Douglas

Washington Farmers Union
Jim Davis, President

Wisconsin Farmers Union
Sue Beitlich, President



Housing Assistance Council
1025 Vermont Ave., NW, Suite 606, Washington, DC 20005, Tel.: 202-842-8600, Fax: 202-347-3441, E-mail: HAC@ruralhome.org
Web site: www.ruralhome.org

March 18, 2009

Hon. Tom Harkin
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Saxby Chambliss
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition and Forestry
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Chambliss:

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) enthusiastically supports President-elect Barack Obama's nomination of Dallas Tonsager to serve as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development. Mr. Tonsager has outstanding experience and skills in rural development issues and programs. His knowledge and past experience with USDA Rural Development will make Mr. Tonsager an excellent leader for the agency.

We look forward to working with Mr. Tonsager and Secretary Vilsack on housing and other rural concerns.

Thank you for your outstanding leadership and vision for rural America. We look forward to continuing work with you in the 111th Congress.

Sincerely,

Moises Loza
Executive Director



March 18, 2009

Mr. Dallas P. Tonsager
Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation
1501 Farm Credit Drive
McLean, VA 22102

Dear Mr. Tonsager:

I am delighted to hear of your nomination by President Obama to be the next Under Secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Like you, I am a South Dakotan closely involved in rural development in our state. I am familiar with your previous work here, and am confident you will be confirmed by the U.S. Senate to this important national position. Since your attendance at MAP's 25th Anniversary celebration in Rapid City in October of 2004 we have continued to expand our technical assistance skills and project case load.

I am now a Regional Director with the Midwest Assistance Program (MAP), a rural development non-profit organization based in New Prague, Minnesota, working in nine Midwestern states. MAP is part of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) network, focusing on the infrastructure needs, especially water and wastewater, of our smallest rural communities. In South Dakota, RJ Inskeep, and Jay Larson continue to provide high quality technical assistance across the state. Work activities on the Southern Black Hills Water Systems, the state of the art wastewater treatment facility in Hill City, and the Geddes wastewater collection and treatment facility are examples of this work.

As you are well aware, America's small, rural communities have faced years of disinvestment, threatening the viability of many of them. We at MAP are heartened by the initial positive signals coming from the new Administration with respect to rural development; as well by as the recent stimulus funds approved by the Congress for broadband and other rural infrastructure development activities. Without the basics of water, wastewater, telecommunications and energy, our small towns cannot survive the increasingly competitive business environment they face.

We very much look forward to working with you and your state RD directors. Please let me know if there is anything we can do to assist you with your work – we would welcome the opportunity to brief you on MAP's work in South Dakota and throughout the Midwest.

Sincerely,

Joe Dvorak
Regional Director
Midwest Assistance Program

cc: The Honorable Tom Harkin, United States Senate
Martha Cashman, CEO Midwest Assistance Program
Chris Fierros, COO Midwest Assistance Program
Brian Foster, Insight Enterprise Consulting, LLC

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P.O. Box 81 • 212 Lady Slipper Avenue, N.E. • New Prague, MN 56071-0081 • www.map-inc.org

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