

February 7, 2025

Brian J. Sonfield
Designated Agency Ethics Official
Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NE
Washington, DC 20029

Dear Mr. Sonfield:

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 Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Treasury. It is my responsibility to understand and comply with commitments outlined in this agreement.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL COMMITMENTS

As required by the criminal conflicts of interest law at 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the particular matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I 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 an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee, even if uncompensated; and
- Any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with an agency ethics official and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict, such as recusal from the particular matter or divestiture of an asset.

If I have a managed account or otherwise use the services of an investment professional during my appointment, I will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains my prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the regulatory exemption for diversified mutual funds and unit investment trusts at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds.

I will receive a live ethics briefing from a member of the ethics office after my confirmation but not later than 15 days after my appointment pursuant to the ethics program regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will submit my

Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance which documents my compliance with this ethics agreement.

I will not modify this ethics agreement without your approval and the approval of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) pursuant to the ethics agreement requirements contained in the financial disclosure regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.803(a)(4).

SECTION 2 – UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Upon confirmation, I will take an unpaid leave of absence from my position as a tenured professor at the University of Maryland. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of the University of Maryland, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for either the exemption for employees on leave from institutions of higher learning allowing participation in certain particular matters of general applicability at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.203(b), or another regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2).

SECTION 3 – GLOBAL ACCOUNTABILITY CORPORATION

I resigned from my position with Global Accountability Corporation in December 2024. I hold stock in Global Accountability Corporation. I will divest my stock in Global Accountability Corporation as soon as practicable but not later than 90 days after my confirmation. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of this entity until I have divested it, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, 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 I know Global Accountability Corporation, is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d). I have verified that I will be able to carry out the divestiture within the timeframe described above.

I understand that I may be eligible to request a Certificate of Divestiture for qualifying assets and that a Certificate of Divestiture is effective only if obtained prior to divestiture. Regardless of whether I receive a Certificate of Divestiture, I will ensure that all divestitures discussed in this agreement occur within the agreed upon timeframes and that all proceeds are invested in non-conflicting assets. I understand that I must submit my request for a Certificate of Divestiture to allow for adequate time for OGE to process the Certificate of Divestiture and in order to divest assets within the agreed upon timeframe.

I (including my minor children if applicable) will not repurchase any asset I was required to divest without consulting with my agency ethics official and the U.S. Office of Government Ethics.

SECTION 4 – OTHER RESIGNATIONS

I resigned from my position with the America First Policy Institute in January 2025. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, 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 I know the America First Policy Institute is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

SECTION 5 – REVOCABLE FAMILY TRUST

I will retain my position as a trustee of the Revocable Family Trust. I will not receive any fees for the services that I provide as a trustee during my appointment to the position of Deputy Secretary. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of the Revocable Family Trust, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2).

SECTION 6 – PUBLIC POSTING

I have been advised that this ethics agreement and the Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance will be posted publicly, consistent with the public information law at 5 U.S.C. § 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Sincerely,

Michael Faulkender