

July 1, 2013

Mr. Stuart Bender  
Designated Agency Ethics Official and  
Director, Office of Ethics  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, DC 20250-0122

RE: ETHICS AGREEMENT

Dear Mr. Bender:

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 Deputy Secretary for the 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.

I understand that as an appointee I must continue to abide by the Ethics Pledge (Exec. Order No. 13490) that I previously signed 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.

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

Sincerely,

  
Krysta Harden