

March 12, 2025

Mr. Richard C. Visek
Acting Legal Adviser and
Designated Agency Ethics Official
Office of the Legal Adviser
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Re: Ethics Undertakings

Dear Mr. Visek:

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 Ambassador to the Holy See. It is my responsibility to understand and comply with commitments outlined in this agreement.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL COMMITMENTS

If confirmed as Ambassador to the Holy See, 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 addition, I will recuse myself from participation on a case-by-case basis in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I determine that a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts would question my impartiality in that matter, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to the impartiality regulations at 5 C.F.R. Part 2635, Subpart E.

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 direct the account manager or investment professional to obtain 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 monitor whether the account manager or investment professional is following this direction regarding prior approval.

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 pursuant to the ethics agreement requirements contained in the financial disclosure regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.803(a)(4).

SECTION 2 – EMPLOYMENT RELATED INTERESTS IN WHICH EQUITY IS HELD

My spouse and I own Morningstar LLC, an entity through which I provide consulting services. Upon confirmation, the consulting firm will cease engaging in any consulting business, including the representation of clients. During my appointment to the position of Ambassador, the firm will not advertise. Morningstar LLC holds an interest in Verve Mail LLC. I will resign from my position with Verve Mail LLC. I will continue to have a financial interest in both of these entities, but I will not provide services material to the production of income. Instead, I will receive only passive investment income from them. As Ambassador, 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 Morningstar LLC or Verve Mail LLC. In addition, pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a former client of mine is a party or represents a party for a period of one year after I last provided service to that client, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my positions with the following entities:

- Virion Strategies LLC
- Oakmont LLC
- Stag Solutions LLC

I will continue to have a financial interest in these entities, but I will not provide services material to the production of income. Instead, I will receive only passive investment income from them. As Ambassador, 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 any of these entities, unless I first obtain a written waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1). In addition, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving

specific parties in which I know a former client of mine is a party or represents a party for a period of one year after I last provided service to that client, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my positions with DRC Holdings LLC, and its subsidiary Frontline Strategies LLC. I will divest my equity interest in DRC Holdings LLC and Frontline Strategies LLC before I assume the duties of the position as Ambassador. I have verified that I will be able to carry out the divestitures within the timeframe described above. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year after my resignation, I also will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know DRC Holdings LLC or Frontlines Strategies LLC is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d). In addition, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a former client of mine is a party or represents a party for a period of one year after I last provided service to that client, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

SECTION 3 – OTHER RESIGNATIONS

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my positions with the following entities:

- Catholic Vote Civic Action
- Catholic Vote Education Fund
- Seton Academy
- Louis IX Foundation

Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year after my resignation from each of these entities, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know 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).

I previously resigned from my position at The Send Team in December 2024, a corporation which is dissolved, and in which I have no remaining equity interest.

SECTION 4 – 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Burch", with a stylized, cursive script.

Brian Burch