

March 12, 2019

Scott A. de la Vega  
Designated Agency Ethics Official  
and Director, Departmental Ethics Office  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW, MS 7346  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. De la Vega:

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 Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

As required by 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 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 officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee; and any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

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 exemption at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), or obligations of the United States.

If I am confirmed as Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, I am aware that I am prohibited by 30 U.S.C. § 1211(f) from holding a financial interest in any surface or underground coal mining operation. Additionally, I am aware that my position is subject to the prohibitions against holding any financial interest in federal lands or resources administered or controlled by the Department of the Interior extended to me by supplemental regulation 5 C.F.R. § 3501.103. Therefore, I will not hold any such interests during my appointment to the position of Secretary.

I understand that as an appointee I must continue to abide by the Ethics Pledge (Exec. Order No. 13770) 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 ethics agreement.

I will meet in person with you during the first week of my service in the position of Secretary in order to complete the initial ethics briefing required under 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305.

Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will document my compliance with this ethics agreement by notifying you in writing when I have completed the steps described in this 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 ethics agreements of other Presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Sincerely,  
  
David L. Bernhardt