

Judith S. Kaleta
Deputy General Counsel and
Designated Agency Ethics Official
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Kaleta:

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 Administrator of the Maritime Administration. 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), or obligations of the United States.

If I rely on a *de minimis* exemption under 5 C.F.R. § 2640.202 with regard to any of my financial interests in securities, I will monitor the value of those interests. If the aggregate value of interests affected by a particular matter increases and exceeds the *de minimis* threshold, I will not participate personally and substantially in the particular matter that to my knowledge has a

direct and predictable effect on the interests, unless I first obtain a written waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1).

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 – U.S. Marine Management, LLC

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my position with U.S. Marine Management, LLC. Following my resignation, I will receive a severance payment in one installment, totaling an amount equal to \$50,000. U.S. Marine Management, LLC, will make this payment to me before I assume the duties of the position of Administrator, or I will forfeit it. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503, for a period of two years from the date of this payment, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which U.S. Marine Management, LLC, is a party or represents a party, unless I first receive a written waiver, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.503(c).

SECTION 3 – Maersk Line, Limited

I currently hold vested restricted stock units that are locked until April 2026. I do not hold stock, stock options, or any other equity interest. I understand that Maersk Line, Limited will accelerate the unlocking of my vested restricted stock units. I will forfeit restricted stock units valued over and above \$10,000 and will be awarded only up to \$10,000 in Maersk stock prior to assuming my position as Administrator. I will divest my interests in Maersk 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). I have verified that I will be able to carry out the divestitures within the timeframe described above.

SECTION 4 – World Affairs Council of Hampton Roads

I completed a 5-year term on the World Affairs Council of Hampton Roads Board of Directors on June 30, 2025. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year after my position terminated, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know World Affairs Council of

Hampton Roads 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 – 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 "SCarmel", written in a cursive style.

8/18/2025

Stephen Carmel