



United States
Office of Government Ethics

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917

April 10, 2001

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
The Capitol, Room S-128
Washington, DC 20510-6025

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
The Capitol, Room H-218
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Dear Mr. Chairmen:

I am pleased to transmit to you the Explanatory Notes of the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) for FY 2002. The Explanatory Notes reflect funding of \$10,060,000 and 82 full-time equivalents, as set forth in the President's budget.

With this level of resources, we believe we can continue to fulfill our responsibilities under the Ethics in Government Act and meet the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan.

Copies of this submission as well as our Annual Performance Plan for FY 2002 are being transmitted to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate. In addition we are furnishing copies to the Senate Subcommittee on Treasury and General Government and the House Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government.

If I can provide you with any further information on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy L. Comstock".

Amy L. Comstock
Director

The Honorable Ted Stevens
The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
Page 2

cc(w/Encl.): The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6216

The Honorable Dan Burton
Chairman
Committee on Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6143

The Honorable Fred Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
342 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510-6250



United States
Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW., Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917

July 30, 2001

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The Office of Government Ethics (OGE) is pleased to submit the enclosed draft bill "to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended, to streamline the financial disclosure requirements for Executive branch employees." We request that it be referred to the appropriate committee for prompt and favorable consideration.

~~This~~ proposal, with one revision, would implement the recommendations we made in our April 2001 "Report on Improvements to the Financial Disclosure Process for Presidential Nominees" that was issued pursuant to Pub. L. 106-293, the "Presidential Transition Act of 2000." Upon further reflection, we are proposing as a revision to our recommendations to raise the minimum threshold for reporting assets to \$5,000 from the \$1,000 threshold that was established in 1978.

In our report, we determined that the public financial disclosure system could be improved substantially by amending the law upon which it is based. Specifically, we proposed that the Ethics in Government Act be amended to: reduce the number of valuation categories throughout; shorten certain reporting time-periods; limit the scope of reporting by raising certain dollar-thresholds; reduce descriptive details that are unnecessary for conflict analysis; and eliminate redundant reporting. It is important to note that we believe these recommendations are consistent with the mandate in the Transition Act not to lessen substantive compliance with any conflict of interest requirement.

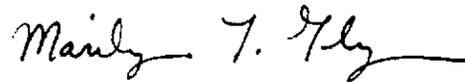
The legislative changes to the financial disclosure system are closely inter-related and inter-dependent, and we present them as a single, complete proposal. In other words, in the effort to reduce redundancy and excessive reporting, we have ensured that all aspects of the proposed reporting requirements are coordinated. Therefore, we must stress that if any portion of these recommended changes is not adopted, OGE will need to review the whole proposal

The Honorable Dennis J. Hastert
Page 2

to ensure that information necessary for conflicts review and ethics program compliance has not been inadvertently lost.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this proposal to Congress from the standpoint of the Administration's program. A similar letter is being sent to the President of the Senate.

Sincerely,



Marilyn L. Glynn
General Counsel

Enclosures

MCook/MC(ab)

PR 4-3

~~RG:G~~ The State of the Presidential
Appointments Process

LG 5 Ethics in Government Act
Amendments of 2001

Jane Ley

Read File

Allison Balderston



United States
Office of Government Ethics

1201 New York Avenue, NW., Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917

July 30, 2001

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney
President of the Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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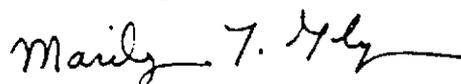
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Marilyn L. Glynn
General Counsel

Enclosures

MCook/MC(ab)
PR 4-3
LG 6 The State of the Presidential
Appointments Process
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Jane Ley
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Allison Balderston

FRED THOMPSON, TENNESSEE, CHAIRMAN

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
EUGAN M. COLLINS, MARYLAND
GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, OHIO
PETE V. DOMINICI, NEW MEXICO
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MAX CLELAND, GEORGIA
THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE
JEAN CARNAHAN, MISSOURI

HANNAH B. SISTARE, STAFF DIRECTOR AND COUNSEL
JOYCE A. RECHTECHAFFEN, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR AND COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 27, 2001

The Honorable Amy Comstock
Director
Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Comstock:

On Wednesday and Thursday, April 4th and 5th, 2001, the Committee on Governmental Affairs will hold hearings on "The State of the Presidential Appointments Process." The purpose of these hearings is to analyze the process Presidential appointees currently have to undergo and accept recommendations for streamlining that process. As you know, the Presidential Transition Act of 2000, P.L. 106-293, directed the Office of Government Ethics to conduct a study and submit a report on improving the financial disclosure process required of presidential nominees under section 101(b) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978. This study was requested in an effort to address growing concerns regarding the barriers to public service embedded in the financial disclosure requirements. It is our understanding that you will be ready to present the findings of your study, as well as recommendations to improve the process by which appointed individuals are scrutinized. It is our hope that you will testify at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 5th, 2001, in Room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The Committee requests that you limit your oral presentation to five minutes, though a longer written statement may be submitted for the record. This will allow adequate time for you to respond to questions from Members of the Committee. Committee rules require that 100 copies of your prepared statement be submitted to the Chief Clerk by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 3, 2001 along with a copy of your testimony on a 3.5" diskette identifying the format of the file. We would ask that the copies of your written statement, the diskette, and a brief biography be delivered to: Darla Cassell, Chief Clerk, Committee on Governmental Affairs, United States Senate, 342 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510.

We hope your schedule allows you to participate in this hearing, and we look forward to receiving your testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact Hannah Sistare, Staff Director and Counsel of the Committee, at (202) 224-4751.

Sincerely,


Fred Thompson
Chairman


Joseph I. Lieberman
Ranking Member



United States
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1201 New York Avenue, NW., Suite 500
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February 8, 2000

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
The Capitol, Room S-128
Washington, DC 20510-6025

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
The Capitol, Room H-218
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Dear Mr. Chairmen:

With this letter I am pleased to transmit the Office of Government Ethics' (OGE) Annual Performance Plan for FY 2001. OGE's Annual Performance Plan is designed to show the measurable goals that define what will be accomplished by the Agency in fulfilling its mission and meeting the goals of our Strategic Plan.

Management has identified performance goals and indicators which will be used to evaluate the target level of performance outlined in this plan. This evaluation will provide management the means to measure the effectiveness of our plan in accomplishing our goals. Actual performance data for FY 2001 will be reported as part of the Annual Program Performance Report by March 31, 2002.

If I can provide you with any further information on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me..

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Potts
Director

Enclosure

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The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
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Chairman
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United States House of Representatives
The Capitol, Room H-218
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Dear Mr. Chairmen:

With this letter I am pleased to transmit to you the Explanatory Notes of the Office of Government Ethics (OGE). The Explanatory Notes reflect funding for \$ 9,684,000, and 84 full-time equivalents, as set forth in the President's FY 2001 budget. With this level of funding OGE will be able to fulfill our responsibilities to the Federal workforce as well as address the additional requirements and challenges brought on by the transition to the next Administration.

Copies of this submission as well as our Annual Performance Plan are being transmitted to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate. In addition we are furnishing copies to the Senate Subcommittee on Treasury and General Government and the House Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government.

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Director

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