

## United States Senate

April 24, 2014

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to respectfully request that your nominee for the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) possess a background in federal workforce and governmental oversight issues. In addition, it is my hope that this nominee has an understanding of the federal treaty and trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Director Burwell has proven to be a competent and innovative leader and I was proud to support her confirmation last April as part of a unanimous Senate vote. As OMB continues to navigate through this critical period, it is imperative that its leadership remains diligent. As you are aware, OMB plays a vital role in government oversight and it is essential that the individual who succeeds Director Burwell have a deep understanding of the roles of oversight bodies, such as Inspectors General and the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

The OMB Director also oversees the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), a crucial part of the regulatory process. In a hearing on regulatory reform that I chaired last month, I emphasized to OIRA Director Howard Shelanski the importance of making OIRA's regulatory reviews more transparent. I plan to revisit this issue in the future, and it is critical that the administration have a willing and experienced OMB Director to partner with in these efforts.

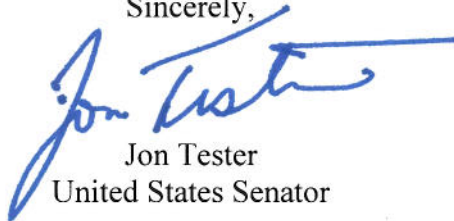
The Office of Management and Budget's role in leading the Suitability and Security Clearance Performance Accountability Council will require the new Director to maintain continuity and remain conscientious in their efforts to improve our nation's security clearance process. As evidenced by the findings of OMB's Suitability and Security Processes Review, the government's security clearance process will require updated agency guidance and a more thorough reinvestigation process. It is critical that OMB's new Director continue to guide the security clearance process to make it more focused, expedient, and transparent while keeping our nation's most sensitive information in the right hands.

Finally, in relation to the federal government's relationship with Indian Country, the OMB Director should have significant appreciation for Indian issues. Over the last 250 years, tribes have entered into treaties and other agreements with the U.S. government, frequently ceding tribal lands and natural resources, and in exchange, the United States has promised essential services for American Indians. The federal government remains a Trustee for Indian Nations across the United States, and while your Administration has made great strides in strengthening tribal communities, much work remains to be done.

Programs affecting American Indians and Alaska Natives exist in every agency and department of the federal government and it is essential that the nominee for OMB Director have knowledge of Indian program budgets and federal Indian policy. American Indians and Alaska Natives are at the bottom of almost every social and economic indicator, and investments—in line with the federal government's trust responsibility—are critical to reversing these trends. As we continue our work to improve conditions that exist in tribal communities, it is my hope that your nominee understands these commitments and proactively takes the opportunity to engage with Indian Country.

While you examine many factors when deciding on your nominee for OMB, I appreciate your careful consideration of the aforementioned priorities and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Tester", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jon Tester  
United States Senator