



the voice of career federal executives since 1980

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April 5, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

The Senior Executives Association (SEA) represents the interests of career federal executives in government, including those in the Senior Executive Service (SES) and in equivalent positions, such as Senior Level and Scientific and Professional positions. We write to urge you, in the wake of the report released by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), to take definitive action to end the internet posting requirement for career Executive and Legislative branch employees.

Since the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act (STOCK Act) was passed early last year, SEA has raised serious concerns about the implications of Sections 8 and 11 that require agencies and the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) to create a searchable internet database of the financial disclosure forms of career senior-level officials. SEA, along with many other organizations representing federal employees and high level officials from the national security arena, contends that such a requirement will cause serious harm to national, operational, and personal security. While the goal of a strong ethics system is a worthy one, this is not the way to achieve it.

SEA was pleased to see that an independent organization such as NAPA, tasked by Congress to take an in depth look at the possible unintended consequences of the internet posting requirement, issued strong findings that clearly show the harm that can result if the law is allowed to take effect. Furthermore, NAPA recommended that Congress consider strengthening internal ethics laws as a means to ensure that career employees are held to strict standards, rather than keeping the internet posting requirement in place.

It is SEA's view that, in light of the findings of the NAPA report, the logical action is to end the internet posting requirement for career employees. SEA stands willing to work with Congress to then identify the best ways to review and strengthen the Ethics in Government Act and the current procedures in place for monitoring financial disclosure forms.

We appreciate your support over the past year to take a step back and consider the serious ramifications of the internet posting requirement. We ask you once again to take action to ensure the strength and integrity of the government and its employees by ending the provisions in Sections 8 and 11 as they apply to career federal employees in the Executive and Legislative branches.

Sincerely,



CAROL A. BONOSARO
President



WILLIAM L. BRANSFORD
General Counsel