



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the General Counsel
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250-1400

May 22, 2020

Via Electronic Mail

Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
foia@americanoversight.org

Dear Mr. Evers:

This correspondence and the accompanying records constitute the **final** response to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted by American Oversight (AO) on November 8, 2019.

This also responds to the matter of *American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Labor, et al.* Civil Action No. 1:20-cv-00563-JEB currently pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

The pending Complaint in the above referenced matter is based on USDA's alleged failure to comply with the applicable time-limit provisions of the FOIA in response to AO's request for the following records:

All email communications (including emails, email attachments, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) between (a) the following specified officials serving in the White House Office and (b) the following specified agency officials:

Specified White House Office Officials	Specified Agency Officials
i. Stephen Miller (including but not limited to the email address Stephen.Miller@who.eop.gov)	i. Sonny Perdue, Secretary
ii. Robert Gabriel (including but not limited to the email address Robert.Gabriel@who.eop.gov)	ii. Lauren Sullivan, Director of Scheduling
iii. Jennifer Cytryn (including but not limited to the email address Jennifer.Cytryn@who.eop.gov)	iii. Stephen Censky, Deputy Secretary
iv. McLaurine Klingler (including but not limited to the email address McLaurine.Klingler@who.eop.gov)	iv. Anyone serving as Chief of Staff, including Ray Starling and Joby Young (including in his former role as chief of staff for the Office of Congressional Relations)
	v. Michawn Rich, Communications Director

	vi. Kristi Boswell, Senior Advisor
	vii. Tim Murtaugh, Former Communications Director
	viii. Stephen Vaden, General Counsel
	ix. Anyone serving in the capacity of White House Liaison or Advisor, including but not limited to Sam Clovis

Below are the details regarding the search efforts, records found in connection with the search, and a description of the FOIA exemptions applied to select records.

Search Efforts

Searches for records, specifically emails, email attachments, calendar invitations and any accompanying calendar attachments were conducted by the telecommunications provider, the Client Experience Center (CEC). The CEC provides comprehensive, fee-for-service information technology (IT) associated operations, security, and technical support services, as well as implements and manages enterprise IT solutions for users Department-wide. The search included the following agency officials for the period of January 20, 2017, to November 22, 2019:

Records Custodians Searched

Sonny Perdue	Heidi Green	Sam Clovis
Lauren Sullivan	Michawn Rich	Thomas Midanek
Stephen Censky	Tim Murtaugh	Brenton McNeely
Ray Starling	Kristi Boswell	Carly Miller
Joby Young	Stephen Vaden	Matthew Christianson

The CEC search located forty-one (41) pages of records that are responsive to your request. These pages are Bates Numbered 001-041.

Application of 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(5) “FOIA Exemption 5”

FOIA Exemption 5 protects from disclosure those “inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency.” 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(5). This language is construed to protect records that are normally privileged in the civil discovery context, including through the deliberative process privilege.

To fall within FOIA’s deliberative process privilege, the records must be both pre-decisional and deliberative. In this instance, the DFO is withholding email communications and email attachments reflecting deliberations on strategies for handling a media inquiry; drafting talking points; interagency draft comments on a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rulemaking

initiative; a draft memorandum with substantial track changes regarding a DHS rulemaking initiative; deliberations on items for inclusion in a draft speech; and proposed actions on select current events. If released, this information would negatively impact the ability of the Executive Office of the President to solicit candid analysis on various agency initiatives. The withheld information also does not reflect any final position of USDA or other federal agencies. Accordingly, the information is both pre-decisional and deliberative.

The DFO is also withholding certain information under the presidential communications privilege. Exemption 5 may incorporate virtually all civil discovery privileges; if a document is immune from civil discovery, it is similarly protected from mandatory disclosure under the FOIA. Rule 501 of the Federal Rules of Evidence allows courts to create privileges as necessary, which may be thereafter recognized under Exemption 5. The presidential communications privilege is one such privilege that has been recognized by courts under Exemption 5.

The presidential communications privilege protects communications among the President and his advisors. It applies to documents in their entirety and covers final and post-decisional materials as well as pre-deliberative ones. The records being withheld here consist of documents that were solicited and received by the President or his immediate White House advisers who have broad and significant responsibility for investigating and formulating the advice to be given to the President. Accordingly, upon the advice of the White House Counsel's Office, the records are being withheld under the presidential communications privilege.

Application of 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) "FOIA Exemption 6"

FOIA Exemption 6 permits the government to withhold information regarding individuals in "personnel, medical and similar files" when the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and where such privacy interests outweigh any public interest which would be advanced by disclosure. For purposes of the FOIA, the public interest is advanced when disclosure of the requested information educates the public about the activities of the government.

Portions of the records produced were withheld under FOIA Exemption 6. In this instance, the DFO is withholding unpublished cell phone numbers, unpublished email, and information regarding personnel matters. These items fall under the category of "similar files" because they apply to particular individuals. Release of cell phone numbers and email addresses belonging to USDA and EOP employees could subject individuals to unwarranted or unsolicited communications, or even harassment. The other information is purely personal in nature and does not, in this instance, inform the public about what the government is up to. Because there is a viable privacy interest that would be threatened by disclosure of the information listed above and no outweighing public interest to be advanced by disclosure, FOIA Exemption 6 authorizes the DFO to withhold these items from release. Accordingly, the DFO has determined that the public interest in the information's release does not outweigh the overriding privacy interests in keeping it confidential.

If you have any question or concerns about this final response or the pending civil action, please contact Kuntal Cholera, Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice at Kuntal.Cholera@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,

Alexis R. Graves

Alexis R. Graves
Departmental FOIA Officer
Office of the General Counsel

Enclosure: Responsive Records (41 pages)

From: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 4:34 PM
To: Clovis, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: I Need Your Help

Many thanks. Will talk to John.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 8, 2017, at 4:31 PM, Clovis, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC <Sam.Clovis@osec.usda.gov> wrote:

Stephen,

I know you are swamped but I thought it important to reach out (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Talk soon. God Bless and God's Speed.

Sam

Samuel H. Clovis, Jr.
Doctor of Public Administration
Senior White House Advisor
US Department of Agriculture
(202) 720-3275 (O)
(b) (6) (M)

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From: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:02 PM
To: Clovis, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: (b) (6)

Many thanks

From: Clovis, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:Sam.Clovis@osec.usda.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 5:10 PM
To: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Subject: (b) (6)

Stephen,

Know you are busy but I wanted to give you a heads up. (b) (6)

Hope that was OK. Hope to catch up soon.

Sam

Samuel H. Clovis, Jr.
Doctor of Public Administration
Senior White House Advisor
US Department of Agriculture
(202) 720-3275 (O)
(b) (6) (M)

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From: Clovis, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 4:34 PM

To: (b) (6) - Stephen Miller

Subject: (b) (6)

Stephen,

I know you are swamped with WH duties, but I wanted to let you know that (b) (6). I thought it went very well.

(b) (6). I think it would go a long way.

Hope you are doing well. Hope to speak to you soon. Keep giving them hell.

Vr

Sam

Samuel H. Clovis, Jr.
Doctor of Public Administration
Senior White House Advisor
US Department of Agriculture
(202) 720-3275 (O)
(b) (6) (M)

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From: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 4:20 PM
To: Clovis, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Dr. Shulkin's Email

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2017, at 3:31 PM, Clovis, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC <Sam.Clovis@osec.usda.gov> wrote:

Stephen,

Dr. Shulkin's personal VA email is (b) (6) Thanks.

Sam

Samuel H. Clovis, Jr.
Doctor of Public Administration
Senior White House Advisor
US Department of Agriculture
(202) 720-3275 (O)
(b) (6) (M)

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From: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 11:21 AM
To: Clovis, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Finally
Attachments: image001.png

Great

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 25, 2017, at 11:12 AM, Clovis, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC <Sam.Clovis@osec.usda.gov> wrote:

Great turn out today for Secretary Perdue's opening remarks at USDA. Packed house and a warm reception. Finally.

Sam

<image001.png>

Samuel H. Clovis, Jr., MBA, DPA
Senior White House Advisor -Office of the Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.3275
Cell: (b) (6)

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From: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 1:44 PM
To: Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO
CC: Starling, Ray A. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

From: Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 12:19 PM
To: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC <Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov>
Cc: Starling, Ray A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Subject: RE: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Thanks. Can you please (b) (5) Deliberative Process

(b) (6) ?

From: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC [<mailto:Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 11:58 AM
To: Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Cc: Starling, Ray A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Subject: Re: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Yes. The below is from USDA's chief economist, Rob Johansson.

On May 12, 2017, at 11:51 AM, Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO (b) (6) wrote:

Thank you, (b) (5) Deliberative Process

(b) (6) ?

From: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC [<mailto:Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 11:45 AM
To: Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Cc: Starling, Ray A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

How's this? (b) (5) Deliberative Process .

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Johansson, Robert - OCE" <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>
Date: May 12, 2017 at 11:42:49 AM EDT
To: "Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC" <Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Tim,
See if this works. (b) (5) Deliberative Process
Rob

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

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From: Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO

Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 2:33 PM

To: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC; Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC; Starling, Ray A. EOP/WHO

CC: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Lin, Merry S. EOP/NSC

Subject: RE: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Ok.

How about: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

-----Original Message-----

From: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC [<mailto:Jason.Hafemeister1@osec.usda.gov>]

Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 2:28 PM

To: Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO (b) (6); Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC

<Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov>; Starling, Ray A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)

Cc: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov>; Lin, Merry S. EOP/NSC (b) (6)

Subject: RE: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

I would tweak the second point to say the following:

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

jh

-----Original Message-----

From: Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO (b) (6)

Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 2:26 PM

To: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jason.Hafemeister1@osec.usda.gov>; Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC

<Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov>; Starling, Ray A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)

Cc: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov>; Lin, Merry S. EOP/NSC (b) (6)

Subject: RE: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Thank you! Can you please confirm the following lines are accurate and correct:

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

-----Original Message-----

From: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC [<mailto:Jason.Hafemeister1@osec.usda.gov>]

Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 1:35 PM

To: Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO (b) (6); Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC

<Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov>; Starling, Ray A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)

Cc: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov>; Lin, Merry S. EOP/NSC (b) (6)

Subject: RE: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

jh

-----Original Message-----

From: Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO (b) (6)

Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 10:53 AM

To: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC <Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov>; Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC

<Jason.Hafemeister1@osec.usda.gov>; Starling, Ray A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Cc: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov>; Lin, Merry S. EOP/NSC (b) (6)
Subject: RE: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

-----Original Message-----

From: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC [<mailto:Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov>]

Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 10:39 AM

To: Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO (b) (6); Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC

<Jason.Hafemeister1@osec.usda.gov>; Starling, Ray A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)

Cc: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov>; Lin, Merry S. EOP/NSC (b) (6)

Subject: RE: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

#

-----Original Message-----

From: Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jason.Hafemeister1@osec.usda.gov>; Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC <Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov>; Starling, Ray A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Cc: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov>; Lin, Merry S. EOP/NSC (b) (6)
Subject: RE: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Many thanks (b) (5) Deliberative Process.
Are there any hard numbers (b) (5) Deliberative Process?

-----Original Message-----

From: Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC [<mailto:Jason.Hafemeister1@osec.usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 10:30 AM
To: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC <Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov>; Starling, Ray A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Cc: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov>; Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO (b) (6); Lin, Merry S. EOP/NSC (b) (6)
Subject: RE: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

jh

-----Original Message-----

From: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 10:10 AM
To: Starling, Ray A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Cc: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov>; Robert.Gabriel (b) (6); Hafemeister, Jason - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jason.Hafemeister1@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Jason -

See below. (b) (5) Deliberative Process. Can you offer (b) (5) Deliberative Process

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

Nice work, and thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Starling, Ray A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 10:05 AM
To: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC <Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov>
Cc: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

This is from Presidential Speechwriting. Can you (b) (5) Deliberative Process
?

-----Original Message-----

From: Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 9:42 AM
To: Starling, Ray A. EOP/WHO (b) (6); Willems, Clete R. EOP/NSC
(b) (6); Haarsager, Mathew P. EOP/NSC (b) (6); Lin, Merry S. EOP/NSC
(b) (6)
Subject: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Good morning team,
Ashley and Richard pointed me in your direction for this - Can you please (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Let me know, thank you -Robert

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From: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 12:01 PM
To: (b)(6) Gabriel Robert
Subject: Fwd: China beef x estimate

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Johansson, Robert - OCE" <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>
Date: May 12, 2017 at 11:54:59 AM EDT
To: "Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC" <Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: China beef x estimate

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

From: Sydow, Sharon - OCE
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 11:14 AM
To: Johansson, Robert - OCE; Shagam, Shayle - OCE
Subject: FW: China beef x estimate

<https://www.meatinstitute.org/ht/display/ReleaseDetails/i/135404>

I found this on NAMI's website:

The Chinese market is estimated to be worth \$2.6 billion for the U.S. beef industry.

From the PR:

Deal Reached for Chinese Market Access for Beef By Mid-Summer

Friday, May 12, 2017

Meat Institute Grateful for Administration's Success In Reaching Deal With Chinese

Washington, DC—The North American Meat Institute commended the administration today following the announcement of a deal with the Chinese government to resume imports of U.S. beef effective July 16, 2017. The deal is the final hurdle to reopening the Chinese market for U.S. beef after a 14-year

absence and sets clear action steps to open the market. In response to a request by the [Meat Institute and other industry partners](#), President Donald Trump raised restoration of U.S. beef access to China in his summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping last month and has made beef access a reality.

“The meat industry has long sought access to the Chinese market for U.S. beef, making today’s announcement a significant and very welcome milestone,” said Meat Institute Chairman and Bob Evans Farms President and CEO Mike Townsley. “High quality beef is in high demand in China, so the deal has great potential for both our businesses and the U.S. economy as a whole.”

“The administration has shown great leadership in working with the Chinese government and industry to help finalize market access for U.S. beef,” Institute President and CEO Barry Carpenter said. “The beef deal is a significant, concrete accomplishment resulting from the 100-day plan established by President Trump and President Xi at their summit. We are thankful for the hard work on the issue by both leaders.”

The Chinese market is estimated to be worth \$2.6 billion for the U.S. beef industry. Asian countries already make up some of the largest markets for U.S. beef with Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan making up four of the top six export markets, accounting for \$3.6 billion in value in 2016.

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From: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 5:17 PM
To: (b)(6) Marc Short
CC: (b)(6) Stephen Miller; Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: (b) (5) Deliberative Process
Attachments: (b) (5) Deliberative Process .docx

Mr. Short,

As you may be aware, Secretary Perdue met with Mr. Miller this past Monday to discuss (b) (5) Deliberative Process

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

[REDACTED]

I appreciate your attention to this issue. Please let me know if there is any other information you need and we will be sure to continue an open line of communication.

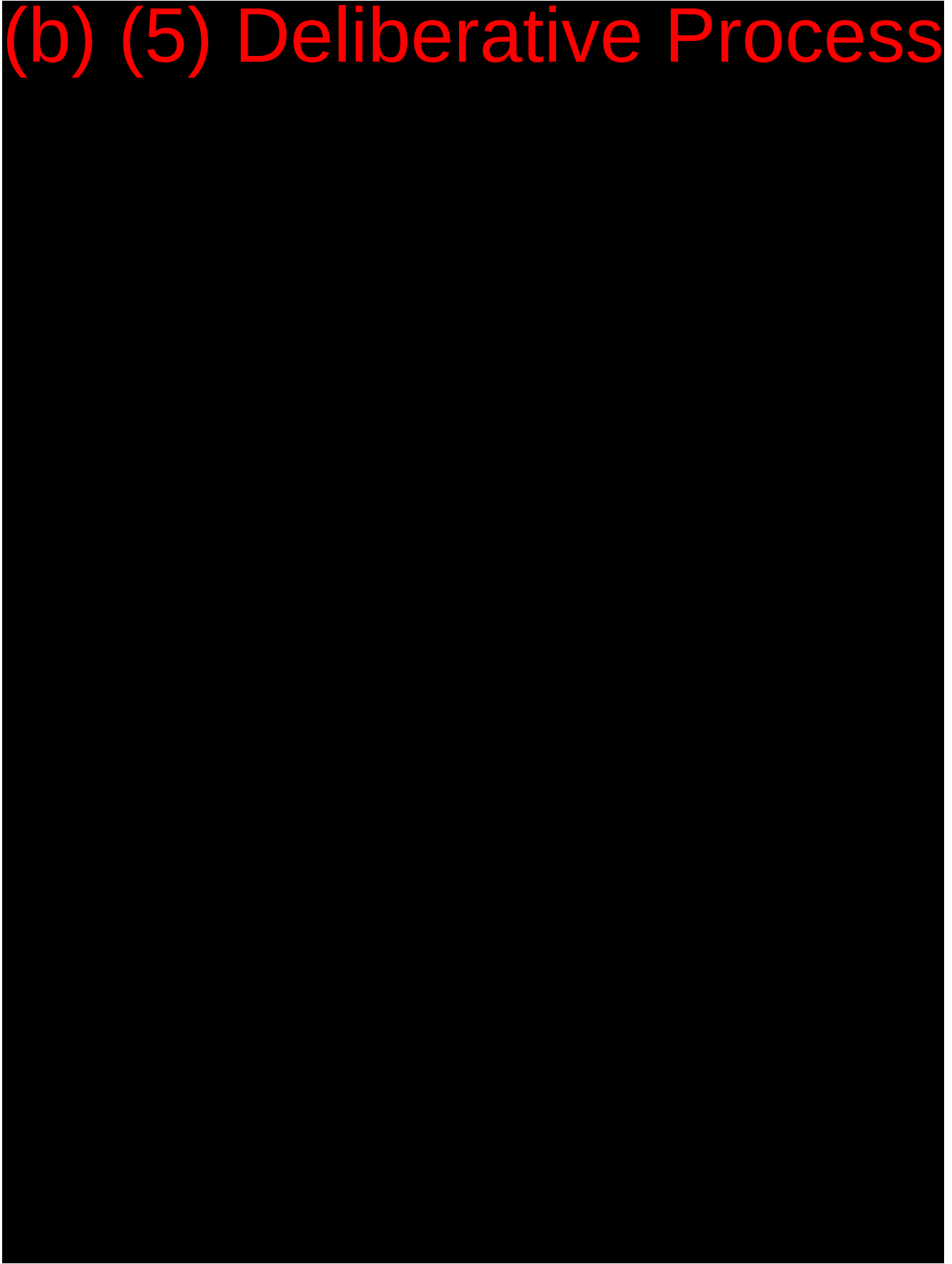
Best,



Kristi J. Boswell
Senior Advisor to the Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: (b) (6)

(b) (5) Deliberative Process



From: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 6:03 PM
To: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC
CC: Short, Marc T. EOP/WHO; Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: (b) (5) Deliberative Process
Attachments: image001.png

Thanks much

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 27, 2017, at 5:17 PM, Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Kristi.Boswell@osec.usda.gov> wrote:

Mr. Short,

As you may be aware, Secretary Perdue met with Mr. Miller this past Monday to discuss (b) (5) Deliberative Process

[REDACTED]

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

[REDACTED]

I appreciate your attention to this issue. Please let me know if there is any other information you need and we will be sure to continue an open line of communication.

Best,

Kristi J. Boswell
Senior Advisor to the Secretary

<image001.png>

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.9990
Cell: (b) (6)

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<(b) (5) Deliberative Process [REDACTED].docx>

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 8:30 AM

To: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO

Subject: RE: Time to chat briefly tonight?

Attachments: (b) (5) Deliberative Process .DOCX; (b) (5) Deliberative Process

.DOCX Attachments withheld as (b)(5)-Deliberative Process (13 pages)

Stephen,

Thanks for call Wednesday night. I've taken the liberty of providing some additional information that may be helpful. Be happy to discuss in person. I've also included the (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Let me know if you'd like to discuss. We want to be helpful.

Sonny

-----Original Message-----

From: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 7:36 PM

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC (b) (6)@osec.usda.gov> Secretary Perdue

Subject: Re: Time to chat briefly tonight?

At dinner now. Will call after. Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

Secretary Perdue

> On Apr 18, 2018, at 7:35 PM, (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC (b) (6) wrote:

>

> Sure. (b) (6)

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Apr 18, 2018, at 7:08 PM, Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO (b) (6) wrote:

>>

>>

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>

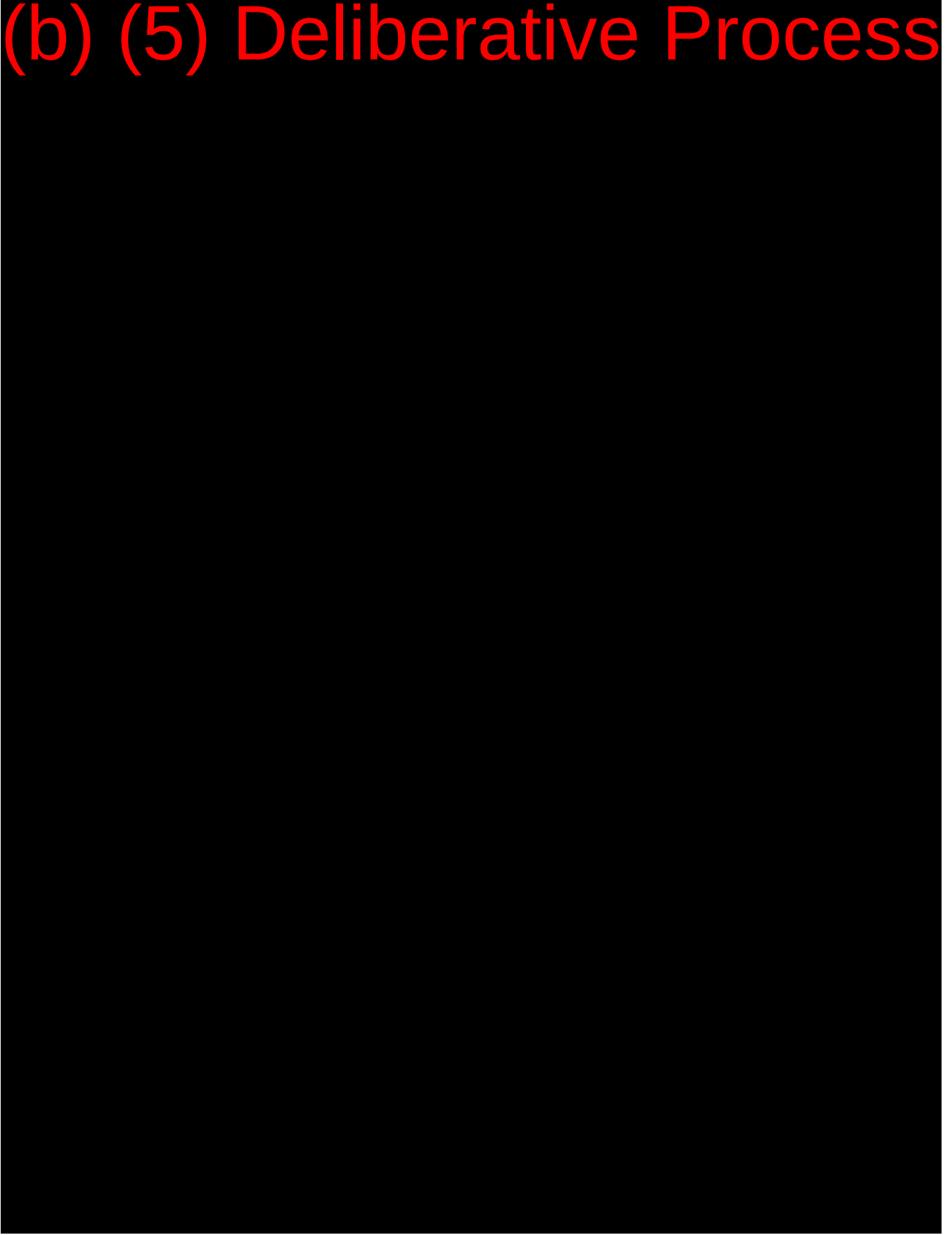
>

>

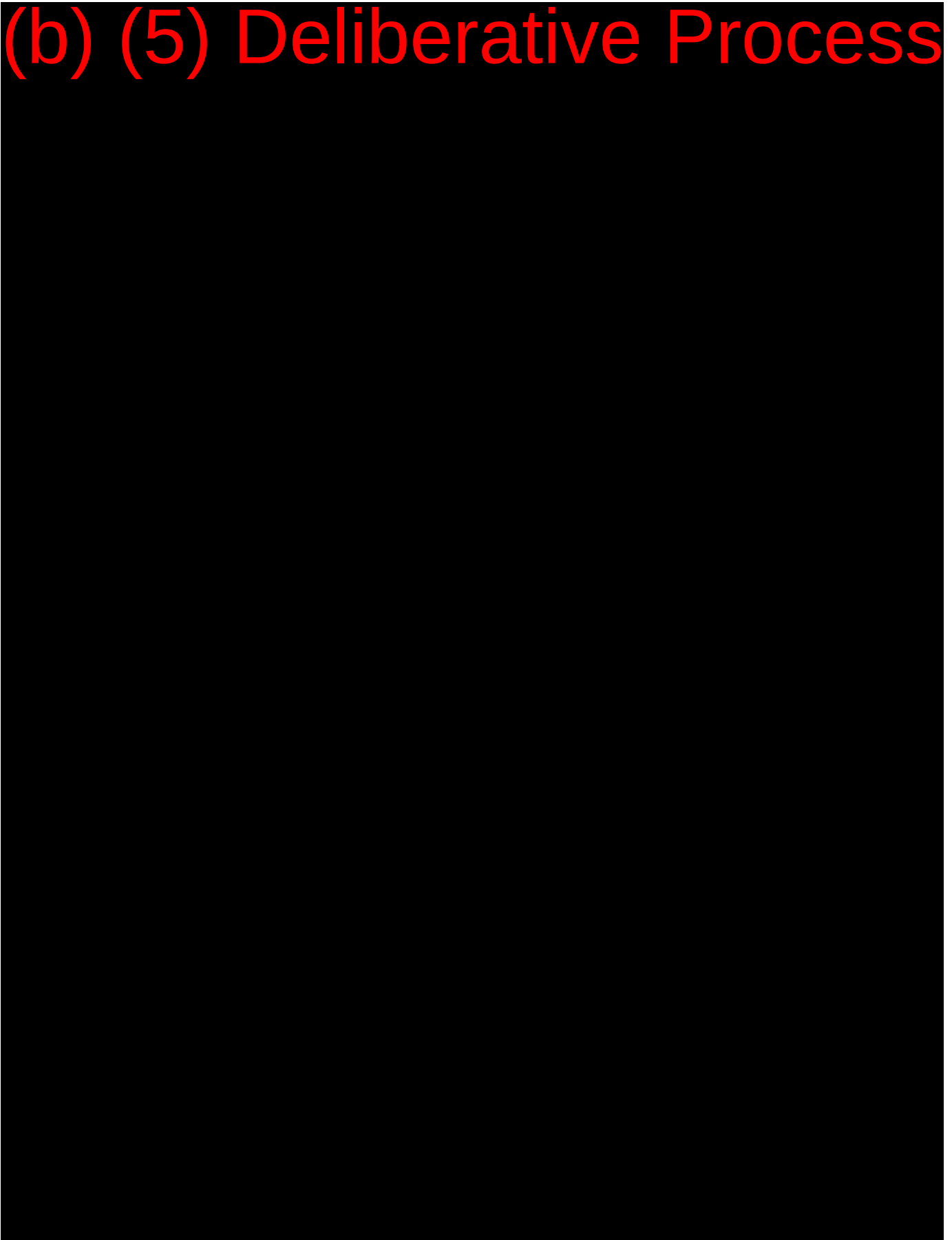
>

> This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

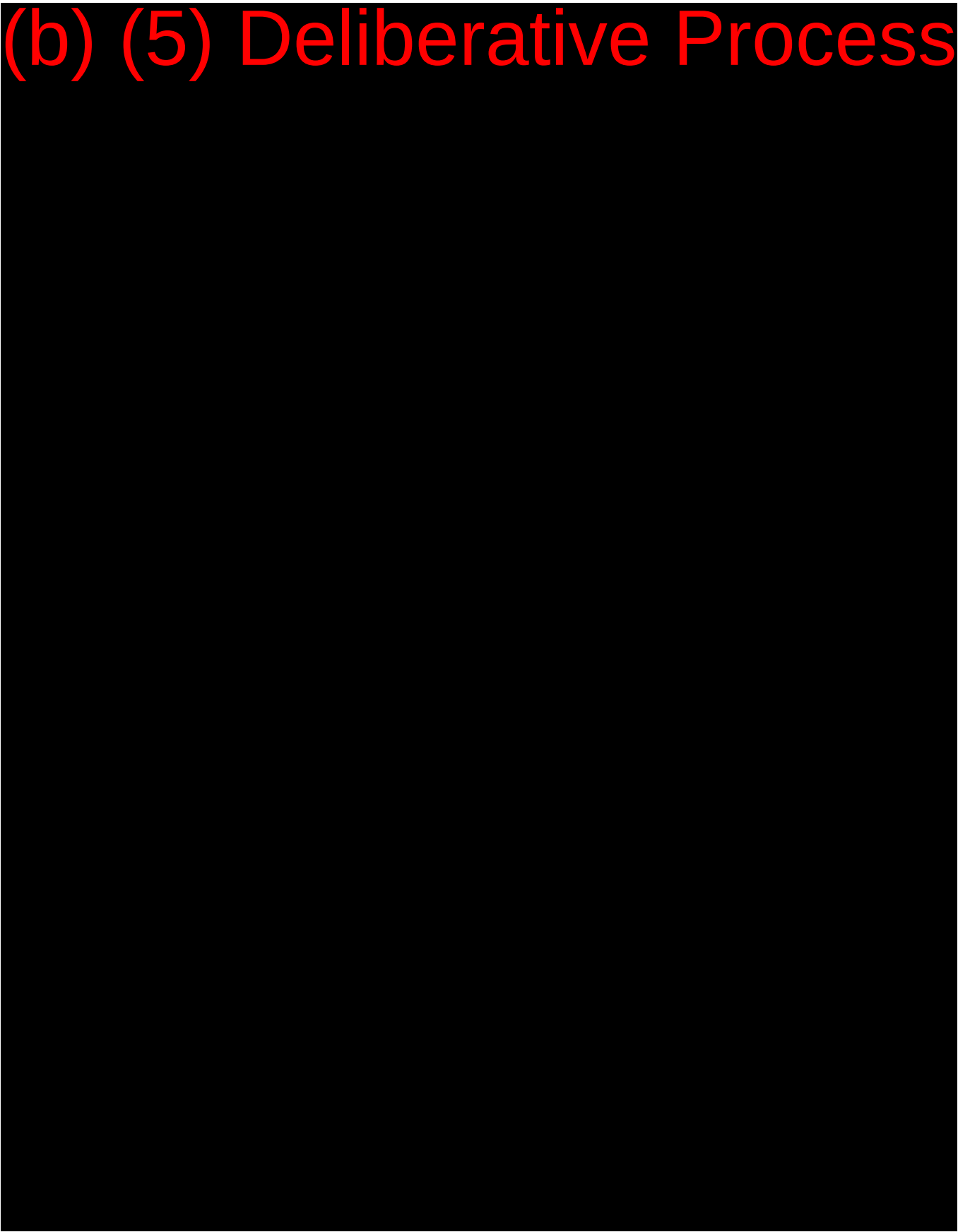
(b) (5) Deliberative Process



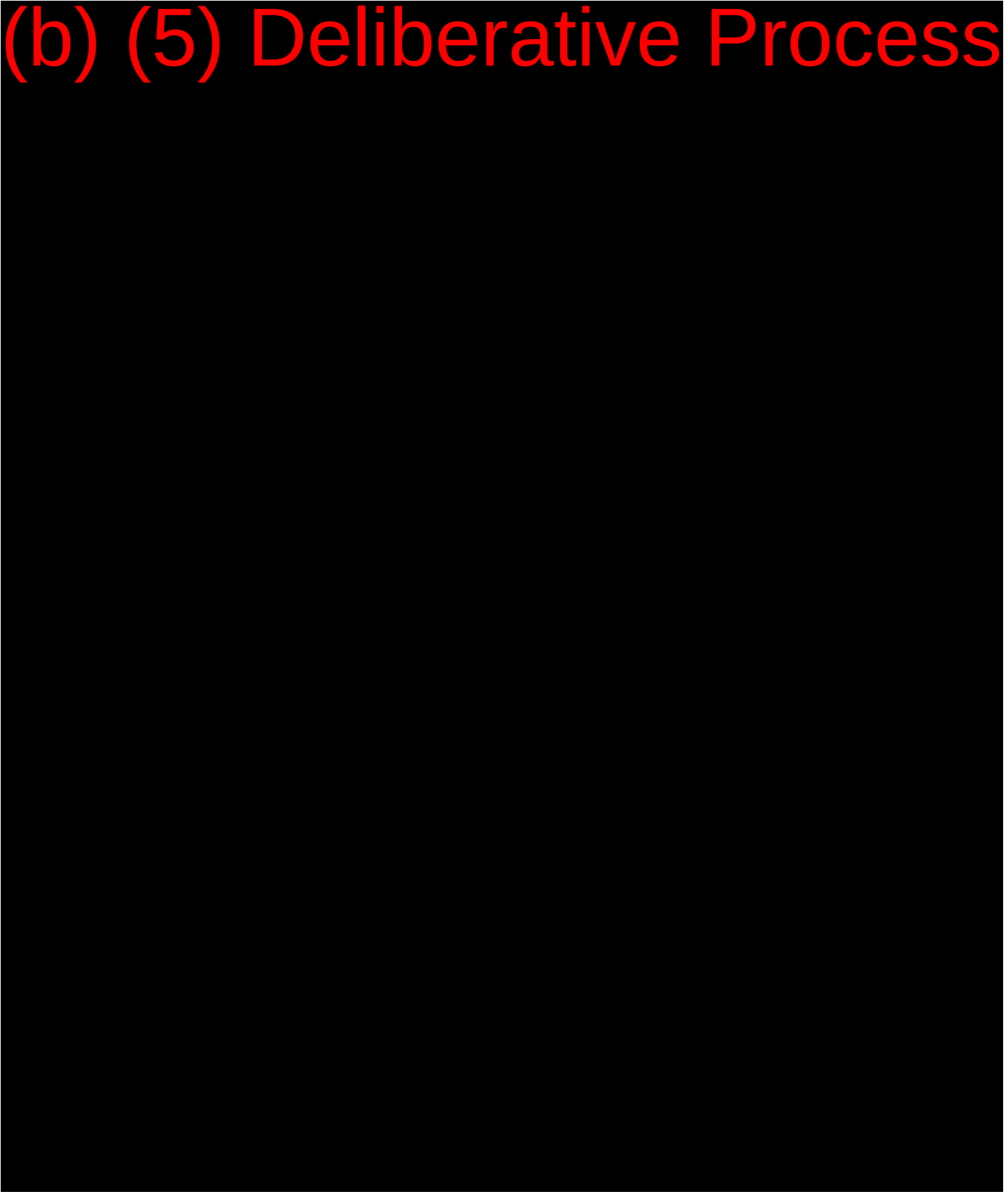
(b) (5) Deliberative Process



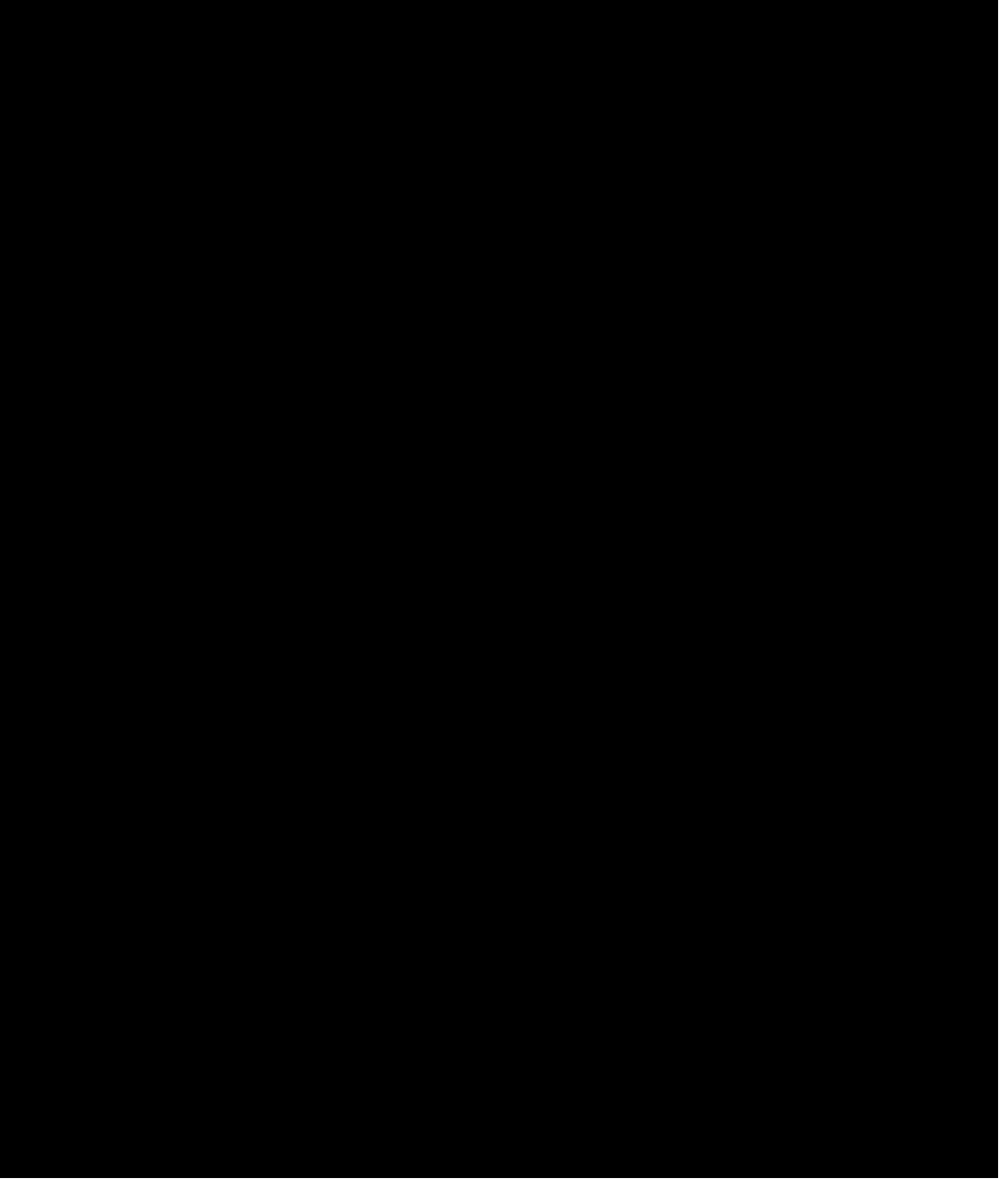
(b) (5) Deliberative Process



(b) (5) Deliberative Process



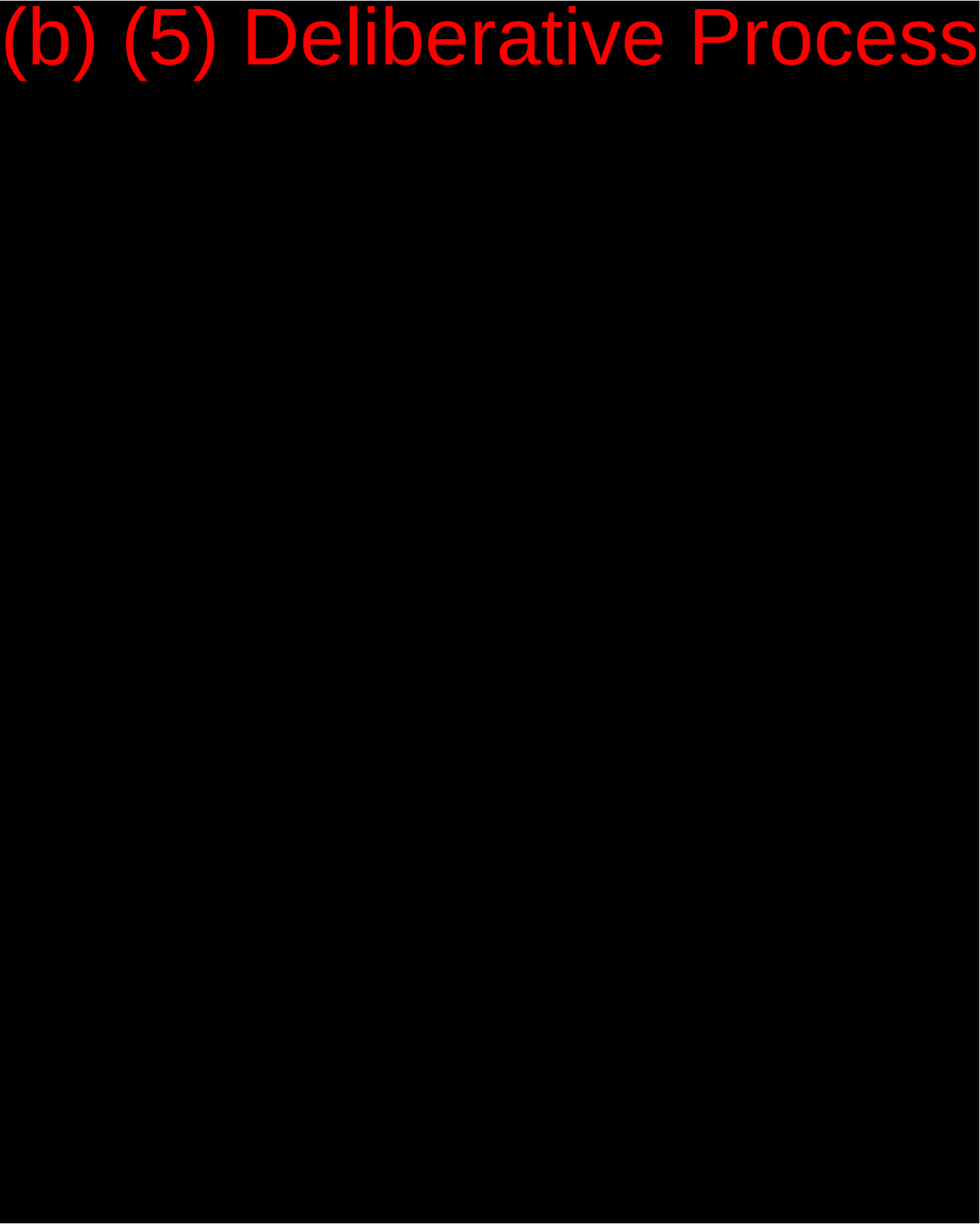
(b) (5) Deliberative Process



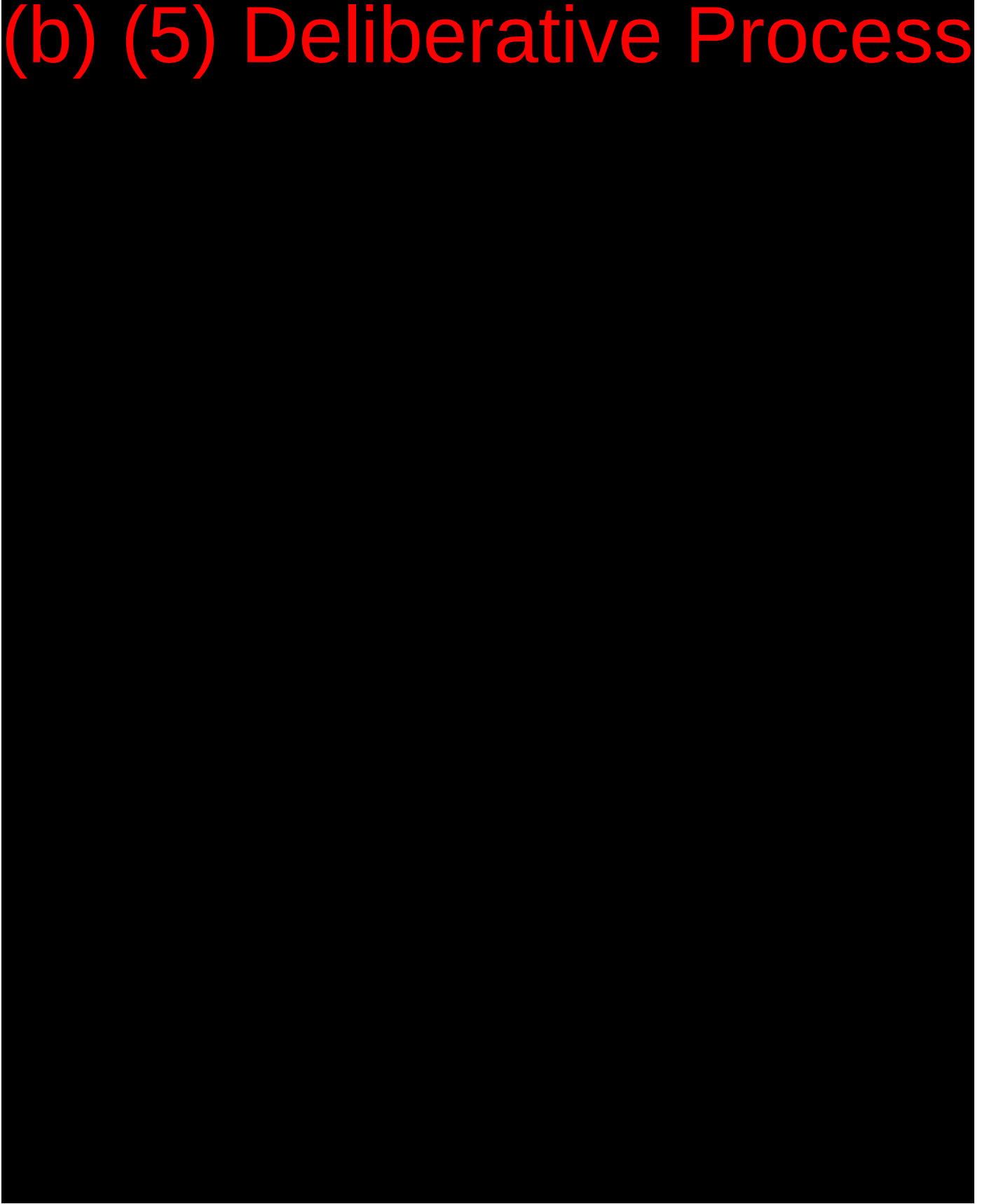
(b) (5) Deliberative Process



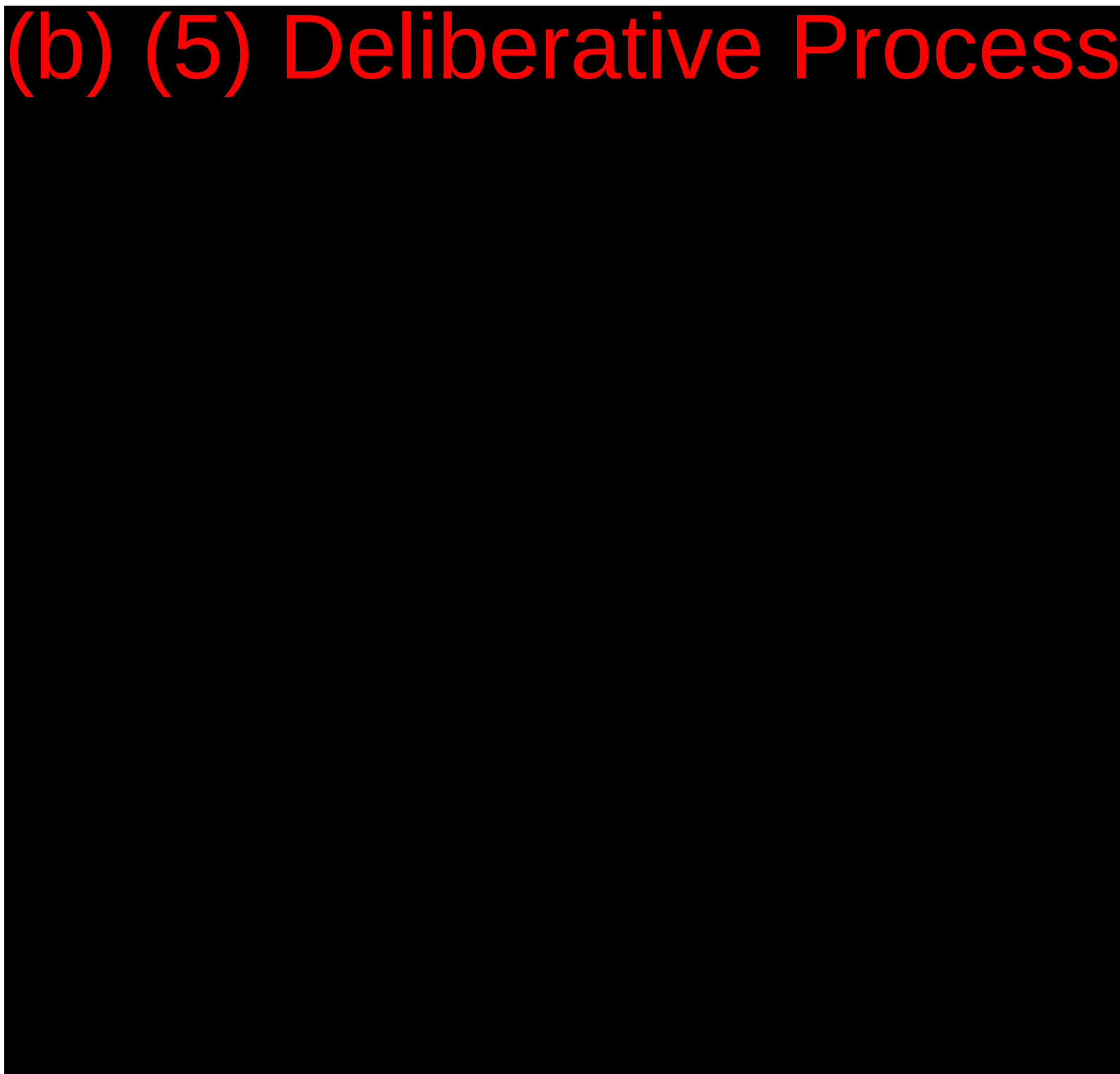
(b) (5) Deliberative Process



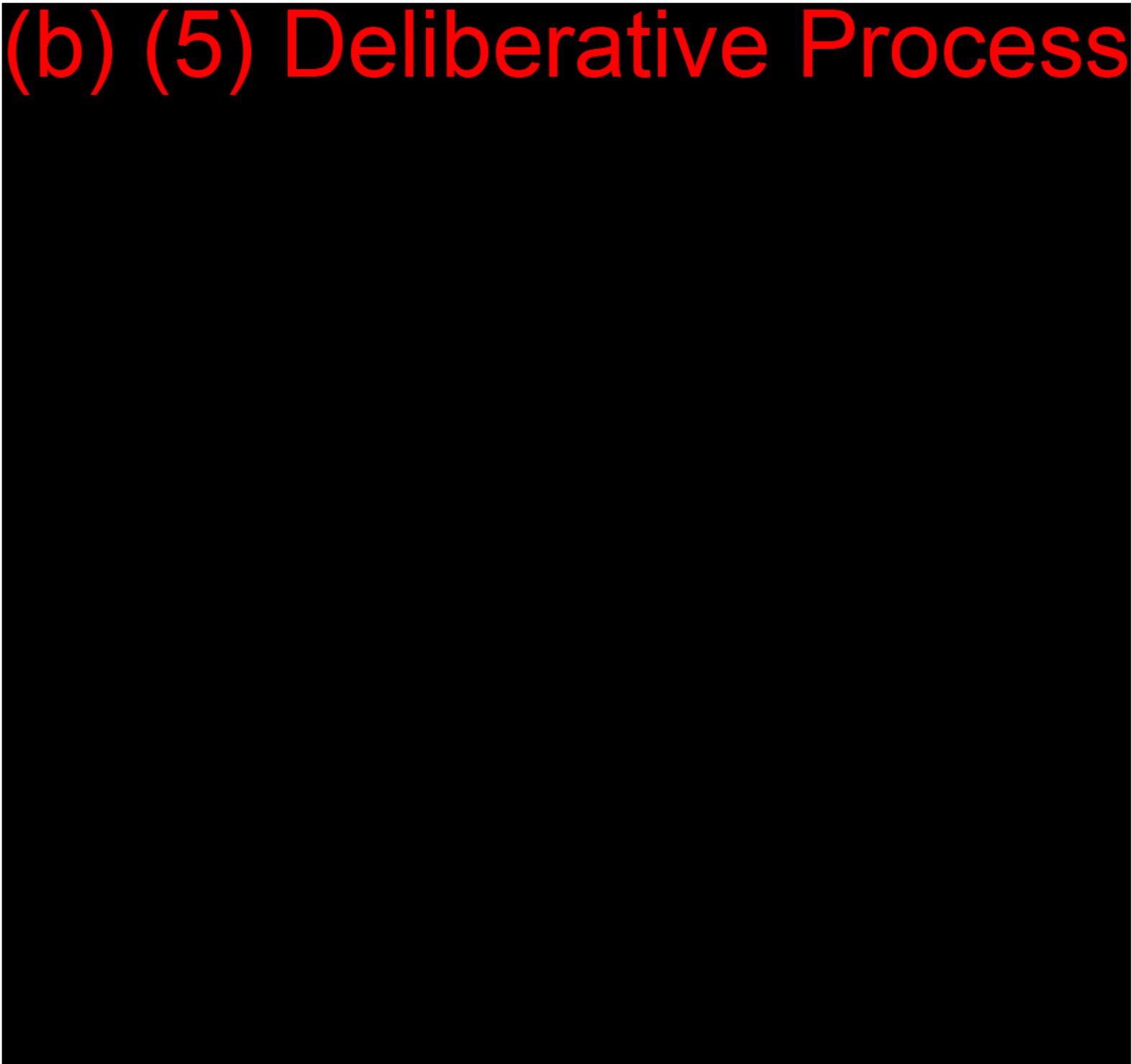
(b) (5) Deliberative Process



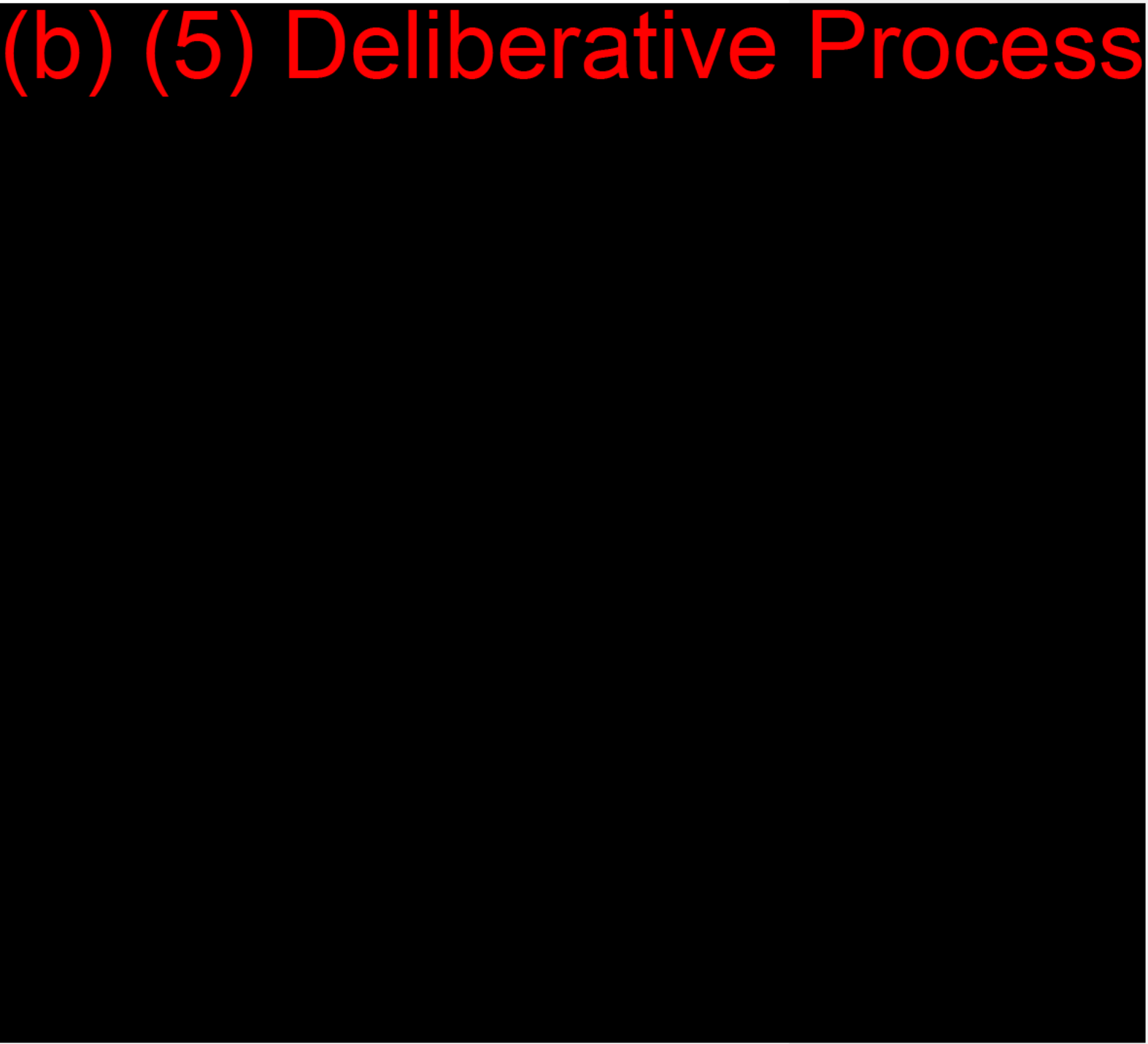
(b) (5) Deliberative Process



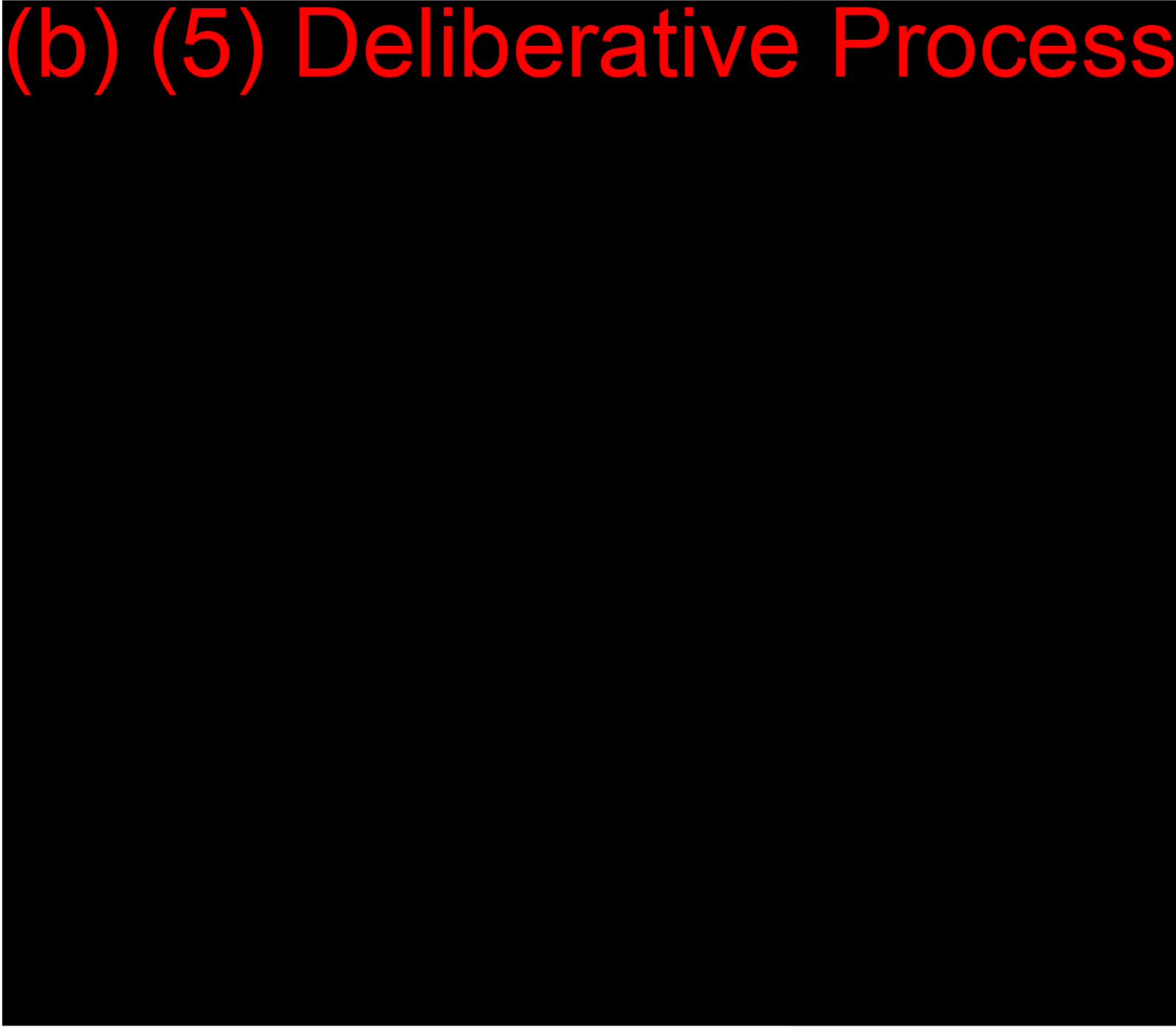
(b) (5) Deliberative Process



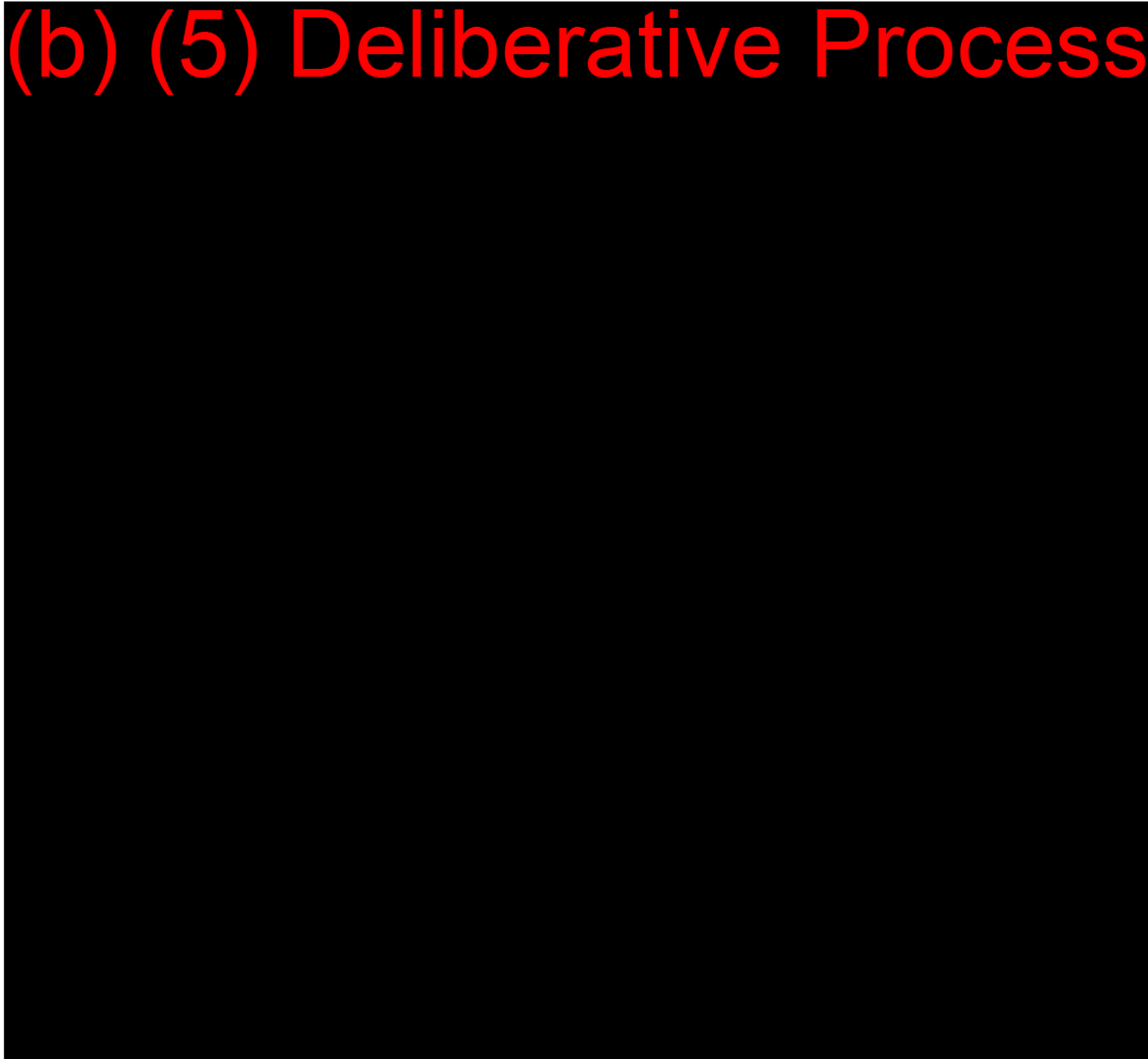
(b) (5) Deliberative Process



(b) (5) Deliberative Process



(b) (5) Deliberative Process



From: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 8:34 AM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Secretary Perdue
Subject: RE: Time to chat briefly tonight?

Thank you. This is very helpful. I greatly appreciate your support and insights.

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

Thanks again -- and look forward to being in touch.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC (b) (6)@osec.usda.gov> Secretary Perdue
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 8:30 AM
To: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Time to chat briefly tonight?

Stephen,

Thanks for call Wednesday night. I've taken the liberty of providing some additional information that may be helpful. Be happy to discuss in person. I've also included the (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Let me know if you'd like to discuss. We want to be helpful.

Sonny

-----Original Message-----

From: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 7:36 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC (b) (6)@osec.usda.gov> Secretary Perdue
Subject: Re: Time to chat briefly tonight?

At dinner now. Will call after. Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 18, 2018, at 7:35 PM, (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC (b) (6)@osec.usda.gov> Secretary Perdue wrote:
 >
 > Sure. (b) (6)
 >
 > Sent from my iPhone
 >
 >> On Apr 18, 2018, at 7:08 PM, Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO (b) (6) wrote:

>>
 >>
 >>
 >> Sent from my iPhone

>
 >
 >
 >

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From: Clovis, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 11:48 AM
To: (b) (6) - Stephen Miller
Subject: Catching Up

Stephen,

Hope this finds you well and doing well. Just wanted to update you on a couple of things.

(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6). However, nothing moves fast so I am
patiently waiting on some response and feedback on (b) (6).

(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6)

Not sure how you can help, but if you can, (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

Take care and thanks for the consideration. Hope to talk to you soon.

Vr

Sam



Samuel H. Clovis, Jr., MBA, DPA
Senior White House Advisor - Office of the Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202.720.3275
Cell: (b) (6)

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From: Clovis, Sam - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 3:30 PM

BCC: (b) (6) - Jared Kushner ; (b) (6) - Stephen Miller ; (b) (6) - John Mashburn ;
 (b) (6) - William McGinley ; (b) (6) - Matthew Flynn ; Don.Benton@sss.gov;
 douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov; (b) (6) - Sean Doocey ; (b) (6) - Jennifer Locetta ;
 Johnny (b) (6) ; (b) (6) - Sarah Makin

Subject: Thanks

Colleagues,

Just wanted to drop you a note to let you know that my last day on the job will be this Friday, the 4th. (b) (6)
 I started campaigning in June of 2013 and, with but a brief break during the spring semester of 2015, I have been at it ever since.

I have lived a rich and full life and have accomplished much. One of the greatest experiences of that full life was getting to work with you all during the Presidential campaign, the transition and then in the administration. You all are very special people who can be very proud of the fact that we ushered into history a profound and much needed change in the governance of this land. (b) (6)

(b) (6) I wish you all the very best and want you to remember I am but a telephone call away. God Bless and God's Speed.



Samuel H. Clovis, Jr., MBA, DPA
 Senior White House Advisor - Office of the Secretary

 United States Department of Agriculture
 Office: 202.720.3275
 Cell: (b) (6)

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From: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 3:06 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; Kudlow, Larry A. EOP/WHO **Secretary Perdue**
Subject: RE: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Thank you!

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC (b) (6)@osec.usda.gov> **Secretary Perdue**
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 3:05 PM
To: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO (b) (6); Kudlow, Larry A. EOP/WHO
 (b) (6)
Subject: (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Larry and Stephen,

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

Sonny

[Food-Stamp Use Still Above Recession Era Despite U.S. Job Gains](#)

Alan Bjerga
 7.19.18
 Bloomberg Gov

Judging by the number of Americans on food stamps, it doesn't feel like one of the best job markets in almost a half century and the second-longest economic expansion on record.

Enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, better known as food stamps, fell to 39.6 million in April, the most recent government data show. That's down from a record 47.8 million in 2012, but as a share of the population it's just back to where it was as the economy emerged from the longest and deepest downturn since the Great Depression.

While robust growth is a bragging point for President Donald Trump and a campaign theme for Republicans trying to break a historical pattern by keeping control of the House and Senate in midterm elections, the rising tide isn't lifting all boats. Elevated SNAP use displeases congressional Republicans, who want a shift toward more job training in the five-year farm bill that's taking shape. Democrats say continued support is needed as an uneven rebound leaves behind millions.

"The economic recovery took longer to reach people who work in low-wage jobs," said Dottie Rosenbaum, a senior fellow at the liberal-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington and a former Congressional Budget Office analyst. SNAP enrollments have remained elevated for years because of higher participation rates in the program, and because the jobless are only one segment of the needy.

SNAP is available for households with incomes up to \$2,665 per month for a family of four, or 130 percent of the federal poverty level. Recipients are also subject to asset and employment tests, and states can modify the program with federal permission. Households receiving SNAP had an average monthly gross income of \$814 in 2016, and 20 percent had no income.

Food-stamp use generally responds to economic conditions, but it's not quite a direct link, according to Parke Wilde, a professor at Tufts University's nutrition school in Boston. "We're many years into an economic expansion after the Great

Recession and just now we're starting to enjoy dips in SNAP participation," Wilde said, as lower unemployment begins to chip away at economic insecurity.

Another reason SNAP use is falling is because eligibility is tightening for able-bodied adults ages 18 to 49 who don't have dependents and have been jobless for more than three months. Many states that asked for expanded access to food stamps because of high unemployment are no longer asking for waivers for able-bodied adults without dependents who aren't working.

Declines aside, other factors are likely to support continued use of food stamps.

Applying for benefits has gotten easier, in part because online access has increased. That's helped lift enrollment to 83 percent of those eligible for food stamps in 2015, the latest year for which data is available, up from 69 percent in 2006, according to the USDA.

Wilde of Tufts said SNAP use will decline modestly, remaining elevated by historical standards until the next contraction inevitably rolls around -- potentially sending enrollments to new heights. "We're still at fairly high participation rates," he said.

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Secretary Perdue

2020-OSEC-00744-F

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 12:34 PM
To: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: Tried to call POTUS on AF1

(b) (6)

From: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 11:34 AM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC (b) (6)@osec.usda.gov> Secretary Perdue
Subject: Re: Tried to call POTUS on AF1

What's the best number to reach you on?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 26, 2018, at 10:31 AM, (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC (b) (6)@osec.usda.gov> wrote:

Stephen,

I got word from VPOTUS to call The President to discuss (b) (5) Presidential Privilege

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks,

Sonny

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From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2018 9:03 AM

To: Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO

Subject: RE: [REDACTED] (b) (5) Deliberative Process

[REDACTED] (b) (5) Deliberative Process

From: Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO [REDACTED] (b) (6)

Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2018 8:59 AM

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC <Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: Gross, Mackenzie A. EOP/WHO [REDACTED] (b) (6); Haley, Vincent M. EOP/WHO

[REDACTED] (b) (6); Olmem, Andrew J. EOP/WHO [REDACTED] (b) (6); Staff Secretary

[REDACTED] (b) (6); Worthington, Ross P. EOP/WHO [REDACTED] (b) (6); Miller, Stephen

EOP/WHO [REDACTED] (b) (6); Royer, Theodore M. EOP/WHO [REDACTED] (b) (6)

Subject: Re: [REDACTED] (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Thanks. [REDACTED] (b) (5) Deliberative Process

On Oct 27, 2018, at 8:30 AM, Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC <Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov> wrote:

[REDACTED] (b) (5) Deliberative Process

From: Gross, Mackenzie A. EOP/WHO [REDACTED] (b) (6)

Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2018 12:56 AM

To: Haley, Vincent M. EOP/WHO [REDACTED] (b) (6)

Cc: Olmem, Andrew J. EOP/WHO [REDACTED] (b) (6); Staff Secretary

[REDACTED] (b) (6); Gabriel, Robert EOP/WHO [REDACTED] (b) (6);

Worthington, Ross P. EOP/WHO [REDACTED] (b) (6); Starling, Raymond - OSEC,

Washington, DC <Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Re: [REDACTED] (b) (5) Deliberative Process

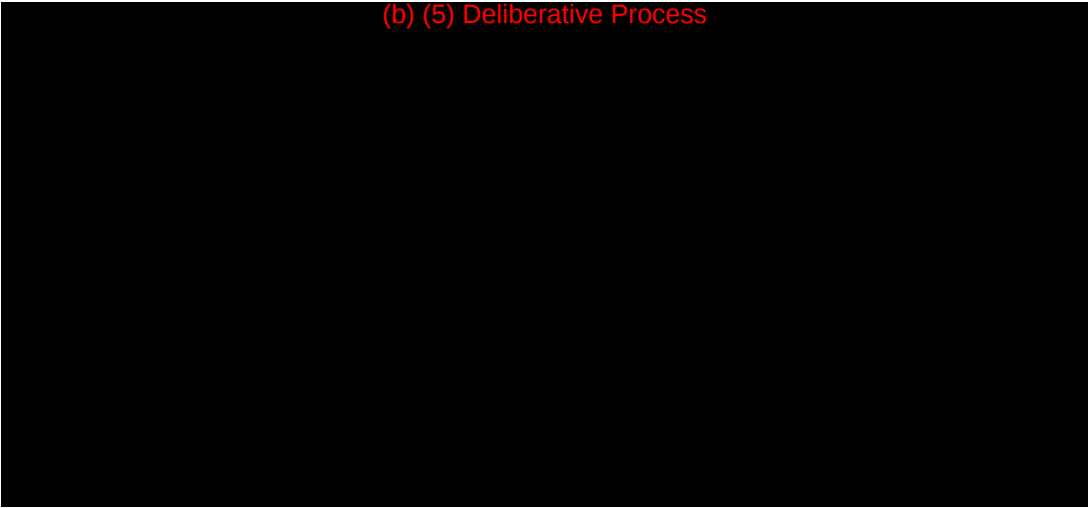
[REDACTED] (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 27, 2018, at 12:08 AM, Haley, Vincent M. EOP/WHO [REDACTED] (b) (6) wrote:

McKenzie (and Ray):

(b) (5) Deliberative Process



Vince

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From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2019 1:04 PM
To: Kushner, Jared C. EOP/WHO
CC: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO; Rader, John N. EOP/NSC; Wold, Theo J. EOP/WHO; Dumbauld, Cassidy M. EOP/WHO
BCC: Boswell, Kristi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: (b) (5) Deliberative

I think so to. I will have our scheduler work with your folks to determine a convenient time.

sp

From: Kushner, Jared C. EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2019 12:29 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC (b) (6) @usda.gov> Secretary Perdue
Cc: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO (b) (6); Rader, John N. EOP/NSC (b) (6); Wold, Theo J. EOP/WHO (b) (6); Dumbauld, Cassidy M. EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Subject: Re: (b) (5) Deliberative

I think that would be a very good meeting and worthwhile to talk through how we can (b) (5) Deliberative Process

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 16, 2019, at 6:51 AM, (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC (b) (6) @usda.gov> wrote: Secretary Perdue

Jared,

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

Thanks,

Sonny

From: Kushner, Jared C. EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2019 3:43 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC (b) (6) @usda.gov> Secretary Perdue
Subject: Re: (b) (5) Deliberative

Happy to chat live

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 9, 2019, at 8:57 PM, (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC (b) (6) @usda.gov> wrote: Secretary Perdue

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

-SP

From: Kushner, Jared C. EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2019 8:14:13 PM
To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC (b) (6) [@usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@usda.gov)> Secretary Perdue
Subject: RE: (b) (5) Deliberative

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC (b) (6) [@usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@usda.gov)> Secretary Perdue
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2019 3:23 PM
To: Kushner, Jared C. EOP/WHO (b) (6)
Subject: RE: (b) (5) Deliberative

Jared,

(b) (5) Deliberative Process

Respectfully,

Sonny

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