United States
Department of
Agriculture

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

July 1, 2022

Delivered via Electronic Mail
Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, District of Columbia 20005
Email: foia@americanoversight.org

Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No. 2020-OSEC-02620-F
Final Response

Dear Ms. Sloan:

This is the final response to the above-referenced FOIA request received by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of Information Affairs (OIA), FOIA Division. The request sought:

1. All email communications (email messages, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and attachments thereto) sent by (1) anyone serving in the capacity of White House Liaison or White House Advisor (including anyone serving as their Chiefs of Staff or Deputies) to (2) anyone with an email address ending in .com / .net / .org / .edu / .mail / .us.

   American Oversight has limited its request to sent messages of the specified agency officials to reduce the volume of potentially responsive records. American Oversight still requests complete email chains. So, for example, if the White House Liaison sent a response to an incoming message from an email address specified above, the email chain containing the initially received message and the response is responsive to this request.

   Please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2019, through the date the search is conducted.

2. All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar invitations, calendar entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) of (1) anyone serving in the capacity of White House Liaison or White House Advisor (including anyone serving as their Chiefs of Staff or Deputies) with or about (2) any of the below specified external entities or individuals:

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i. Virginia "Ginni" Thomas or any person communicating on her behalf, such as Crystal Clayton
ii. Barbara Ledeen or any person communicating on her behalf
iii. Becky Norton Dunlop or any person communicating on her behalf

Please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2019, through the date the search is conducted.

3. All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar invitations, calendar entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) between (1) any political appointees* in the immediate front Office of the Secretary (or the senior-most official at your agency) as well as anyone serving in the capacity of White House Liaison or White House Advisor (including anyone serving as their Chiefs of Staff or Deputies) and (2) John McEntee, head of the Presidential Personnel Office at the White House, or anyone communicating on his behalf.

   Please provide all responsive records from February 1, 2020, through the date the search is conducted.

   *"Political appointee" should be understood as any person who is a Presidential Appointee with Senate Confirmation (PAS), a Presidential Appointee (PA), a Non-career SES, any Schedule C employees, or any persons hired under Temporary Non-career SES Appointments, Limited Term SES Appointments, or Temporary Transitional Schedule C Appointments.

4. All records reflecting the content of a meeting between (1) anyone serving in the capacity of White House Liaison or White House Advisor (including anyone serving as their Chiefs of Staff or Deputies) and (2) John McEntee, head of the Presidential Personnel Office at the White House, on or about February 20, 2020,3 including any calendar entries, emails and other written communications about the meeting, agendas, lists of meeting attendees, minutes, summaries, handwritten notes, talking points, transcripts, or materials displayed or exchanged during the meeting.

   Please provide all responsive records from February 1, 2020, through the date the search is conducted.

Your request has been processed under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

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On May 14, 2021, the OIA issued an interim response. The interim response covered Items 2 and 4 of your request. This final response concludes your FOIA request and contains records responsive to Items 1 and 3 above.

Searches for records responsive to Items 1 and 3 of your request were conducted by the Client Experience Center's (CEC) eComply team. The CEC provides comprehensive, fee-for-service information technology (IT) associated operations, security, and technical support services to USDA end users. The CEC also implements and manages enterprise IT solutions for users Department-wide. The OIA's searches identified two hundred fifty-seven (257) pages of records responsive to these items in your request.

The FOIA Division has determined that certain information contained therein should be withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(5) and (b)(6) (FOIA Exemptions 5 and 6). Below are explanations of the information that has been withheld.

FOIA Exemption 5 - Deliberative

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." One of the frequently invoked FOIA Exemption 5 privileges is the deliberative process privilege. To fall within FOIA's deliberative process privilege, the records must be both pre-decisional and deliberative; the records must precede the adoption of an agency policy and include the opinions, recommendations, or deliberations on a legal or policy matter.
In this instance, the OIA is withholding, under the deliberative process privilege, pre-decisional inter-agency discussions on issues relating to personnel matters
.
These items are pre-decisional in that they are antecedent to any final agency decision. These items are also deliberative in that they reflect the evolving, back-and-forth process between agency employees that is so integral to the Executive Branch decision-making process; more specifically, the development of potential recommendations made by agency advisors for use in making agency decisions.

If these pre-decisional, deliberative communications were released to the public, USDA and other Executive Branch employees would be much more cautious in their discussions with each other, and in candidly discussing and providing all pertinent information and viewpoints in a timely manner to agency decision-makers. This lack of candor would also seriously impair the Department's ability to engage in forthright, internal discussions necessary for efficient and proper agency decision-making.

FOIA Exemption 6

FOIA Exemption 6 generally is referred to as the "personal privacy" exemption. It provides that the disclosure requirements of FOIA do not apply to "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." Application of the exemption involves balancing the public's interest in disclosure against individuals' privacy interests.

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The information withheld under Exemption 6 consists of mobile numbers, the email addresses of White House employees, the email addresses and personal information of unsuccessful job applicants, and information relating to individuals' personal information and reflections. This information qualifies as "similar files" because it applies to particular individuals. Releasing the mobile numbers and email addresses could subject the individuals to unwarranted or unsolicited communications. With regard to job applicants' identities and information surrounding their applications, knowledge of their non-selection could lead to embarrassment or adversely affect future employment or promotion prospects. For the information concerning individuals' personal information and reflections, that information is purely personal in nature and does not advance one's understanding of the government's operations. Because there is a viable privacy interest that would be threatened by disclosure, Exemption 6 authorizes this office to withhold the information. Accordingly, we have determined that the public interest in the information's release does not outweigh the overriding privacy interests in keeping it confidential.

You may appeal this response by email at USDAFOIA@usda.gov. Your appeal must be in writing, and it must be received electronically no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. The OGC will not consider appeals received after the 90 calendar-day limit. Appeals received after 5:00 p.m. EST will be considered received the next business day. The appeal letter should include the FOIA tracking number, a copy of the original request, the OIA's response to your original request, and a statement explaining the basis of your appeal. For quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email and the appeal letter should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal" and reference FOIA No. **2020-OSEC-02620-F**.

You may seek dispute resolution services from the OIA's FOIA Public Liaison, Ms. Melanie Enciso. Ms. Enciso may be contacted by telephone at (202) 720-9425, or electronically at Melanie.Enciso@usda.gov or USDAFOIA@usda.gov.

You also have the option to seek assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). Please visit https://www.archives.gov/ogis/mediation-program/request-assistance for information about how to request OGIS assistance in relation to a FOIA request.

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of processing your request. In this instance, no fees will be charged.

If you have any questions regarding the processing of this request, please contact Ms. Melanie Enciso at melanie.enciso@usda.gov or USDAFOIA@usda.gov.

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For additional information regarding USDA FOIA regulations and processes, please refer to the information available online at Freedom of Information Act Division | USDA.

The OIA appreciates the opportunity to assist you with this matter.

Sincerely,

Alexis R. Graves

Alexis R. Graves
Director
Office of Information Affairs

Enclosures: Responsive Records (257 pages)

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From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
Bcc: (b)(6) @stallions.abac.edu; (b)(6) @g.clemson.edu; (b)(6) ; (b)(6) @dons.usfca.edu; (b)(6) ; (b)(6) @ksu.edu; (b)(6) @ic.edu; (b)(6) @iowaffa.com; (b)(6) ; (b)(6) @ag.senate.gov; (b)(6) @iastate.edu; (b)(6) @psu.edu; (b)(6) @iastate.edu; (b)(6) ; (b)(6) @vols.utk.edu; (b)(6) @uga.edu; (b)(6) @scsu.edu; (b)(6) @scsu.edu; (b)(6) - FAS, BUENOS AIRES OAA
Subject: USDA Internship
Date: Thursday, November 7, 2019 4:16:01 PM

Good Afternoon –

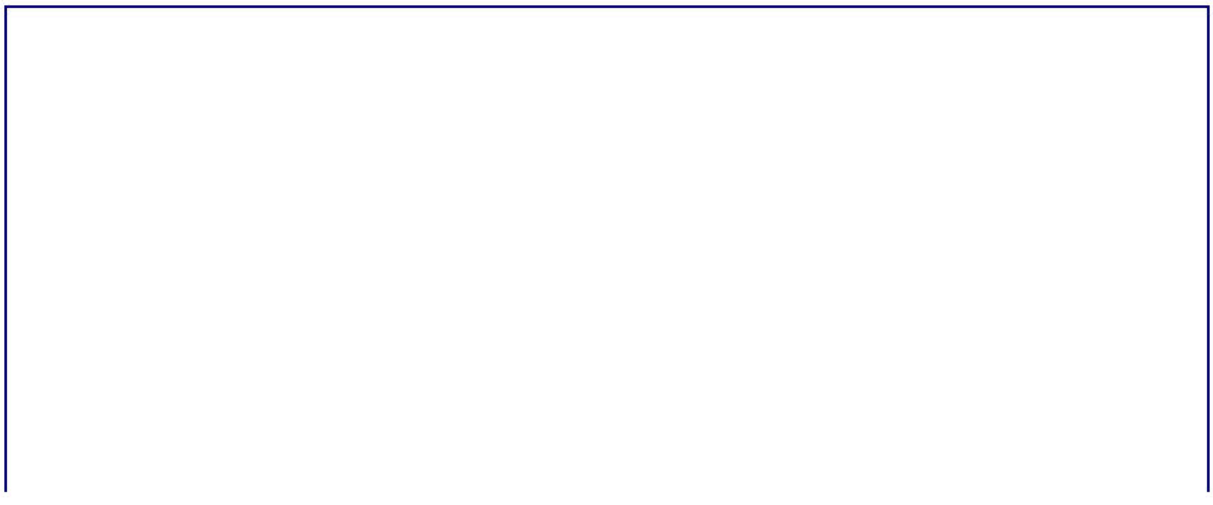
Reaching out to ensure that you are aware of the application window for the "OneUSDA Internship" opportunity for Summer 2020. **Please note that the application window, which opened November 1, will close on Friday, November 15, 2019. If you are interested in a USDA internship experience for summer 2020, you must apply via the links below no later than that date.**

In the Summer of 2020, USDA will hire Pathways Interns in hundreds of locations in nearly every state in the country for the following occupational fields:

- Veterinary Science
- Biological Sciences (e.g., natural resources management forestry, wildlife biology, fish biology, ecology, botany, rangeland management, recreation)
- Engineering & Architecture
- Agribusiness, Contracting, Procurement, and Industry
- General Administration and Office Support
- Financial Management
- Information Technology

After choosing the geographic location of preference and the career path that best matches with your area of study and professional aspirations at http://www.usda.gov/Internships, follow the weblinks to https://www.usajobs.gov/ to set up an account, then follow the prompts to apply to the internship.

Additional information is provided in the press release below and please don't hesitate to reach out with questions.



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United States Department of Agriculture USDA Office of Communications press@oc.usda.gov

Secretary Perdue Announces OneUSDA Internship Program for Summer 2020

(Washington, D.C., November 1, 2019) Today, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the "OneUSDA Internship" opportunity for Summer 2020. As part of the Federal Pathways Program, the OneUSDA Internship Program will provide students a way to explore serving their country through a career in government while gaining work experience in agriculture, natural resources, rural development, and other career fields.

"Our goal at USDA is to recruit the best and retain the best through our OneUSDA Internship Program offered nationwide," said Secretary Perdue. "Today's young people are the future of America and there are few things more American than agriculture. We're aiming to find young talent, with a diverse background, across all 50 states, to begin their careers as interns with USDA."

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The OneUSDA Internship Program offers Federal opportunities to students currently enrolled in qualifying educational programs or institutions, with a comprehensive developmental program intended to provide students with experience in a dynamic work environment that will enhance their educational goals and shape their career choices. An internship with USDA will involve various components of on-the-job experience, mentorship, and training tailored to the student's education, experience, and interests.

During 2019, USDA was proud to host thousands of interns throughout the country, many of which were through the Federal Pathways Program. In the Summer of 2020, USDA will hire Pathways Interns in hundreds of locations in nearly every state in the country for the following occupational fields:

- Veterinary Science
- Biological Sciences (e.g., natural resources management forestry, wildlife biology, fish biology, ecology, botany, rangeland management, recreation)
- Engineering & Architecture
- Agribusiness, Contracting, Procurement, and Industry
- General Administration and Office Support
- Financial Management
- Information Technology

USDA is making sure the Summer 2020 OneUSDA internship job announcement is easier-than-ever for students to find and apply for. After choosing the geographic location of preference and the career path that best matches with student's area of study and professional aspirations at http://www.usda.gov/Internships, students simply follow the weblinks to https://www.usajobs.gov/ to set up an account, then follow the prompts to apply to the internship.

When applying, students will also have an opportunity to indicate their preferred occupational area of interest and USDA Agency or office. The application window will open on November 1st and close on November 15th. Application review will begin immediately

For more information, visit www.USDA.gov/Internships.

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From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Documents
Date: Monday, November 18, 2019 8:30:53 AM

Merci!

From: (b) (6) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2019 7:33 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Documents

Here are all the forms. Thanks again for all your help, it's much appreciated!

Best,
(b) (6)

On Fri, Nov 15, 2019 at 4:39 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hey!
>
> Great job today!
>
> Attached are the required documents for PPO, please fill them out and send them back to me by Monday morning.
>
> Have a good weekend!
>
> - Thor
>
> 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.

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From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Documents
Date: Friday, November 15, 2019 4:39:15 PM
Attachments: PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
13 Point Form.docx

Hey!

Great job today!

Attached are the required documents for PPO, please fill them out and send them back to me by Monday morning.

Have a good weekend!

- Thor

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.

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Name:

Research Questionnaire

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to expedite Presidential Personnel's vetting process. Please fill out the questionnaire with as much detail as possible. In the event that the question does not apply to you, please mark not applicable.

Please provide hyperlinks to any social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc) account past/present. (Please note, that it is better not to go through your accounts and delete posts prior to the vetting process as the offending posts are often recoverable by the press in another form)

Facebook:

Twitter:

Instagram:

LinkedIn:

YouTube:

Pinterest:

Misc:

Have you ever appeared on a political podcast? Talk radio/local radio? If yes, to the best of your ability, please provide as much information as possible regarding the program such as the name of the show, the host, the date it was aired/posted, the broadcaster and (If applicable) the hyperlink to the program.

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Have you ever appeared on any of the major cable networks (Fox, MSNBC, CNN, CNBC, etc.)? If yes, please list the network, the program, and, if possible, the date the program you appeared on was aired.

Have you ever testified before Congress? If so, please list the committee (and the subcommittee if applicable) you testified before and the date of the hearing.

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Have you ever run for or held elected office? Served on your local or state party committee? If yes, please give the office held/sought, the dates and any other information you deem pertinent.

Have you given speeches on a controversial issue? Or addressed a political conference like CPAC, the RNC, the DNC or any other political organization. To the best of your ability, please list any speech that you have made in support of a candidate, policy issue, or before a political organization. If you are able, please provide a link to or a transcript of the speech. If the volume of speeches given is too great in connection with holding elected office, please give a general description of your speeches and the types of groups you've spoken before.

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While many candidates include a curriculum vitae, those documents often do not cover the full breadth of their writings. Have you ever maintained a blog? Written an opinion piece that appeared in a traditional newspaper like the Wall Street Journal or the New York Times? Written for an online publication like Breitbart, Newsmax, or Mother Jones? Please list any opinion pieces you have written, the publication they appeared in, and links to the pieces if possible. For personal blogs, providing the name and link is sufficient.

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The White House
Office of Presidential Personnel

SKC/SES BIO SHEET

NOTICE: This information is necessary to begin the clearance process. Please return to the White House Liaison once completed.

PART I: PERSONAL INFORMATION (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CANDIDATE)

1. FULL NAME (Last, First, Middle):	2. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:	
3. CURRENT RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (Number, Street, City, State, ZIP Code)		
4. VOTING ADDRESS IN 2016 (Number, Street, City, State, ZIP Code, if different than current address)		
5. PLACE OF BIRTH (City, State; if not U.S., state, country)	6. GENDER	7. DATE OF BIRTH
8. ETHNIC HERITAGE	9. RACE	10. POLITICAL PARTY

11. HOME PHONE	12. CELL PHONE	13. WORK PHONE
14. PERSONAL EMAIL	15. WORK EMAIL	
16. CURRENT POSITION (Title, Company)	17. WORK ADDRESS (Number, Street, City, State, Zip)	
18. LIST ALL SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS (Include URLs)		
19. EDUCATION (Degree, Institution, Year)	20. AWARDS	
21. MILITARY SERVICE (Rank, Branch, Years)	22. PREVIOUS PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS	

PART II: POSITION INFORMATION (TO BE COMPLETED BY WHITE HOUSE LIAISON)

1. POSITION TITLE	2. AGENCY	
2. APPOINTMENT TYPE	3. GRADE	4. OPM NUMBER
5. WH LIAISON NAME Thor Christianson	6. WH LIAISON PHONE 202-913-3062	7. WH LIAISON EMAIL thor.christianson@usda.gov

INTERNAL WHITE HOUSE DOCUMENT, NOT FOR RELEASE WITHOUT PRIOR WHITE HOUSE APPROVAL

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SAMPLE TEMPLATE

13 POINTS MEMO: New Hire Approval Request & Checklist

AGENCY / DEPARTMENT: USDA/OSEC

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

- **FULL NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST):**
- **PHONE:**
- **EMAIL:**
- **PLACE OF BIRTH:**
- **SSN:**
- **RESUME ATTACHED?:**
- **5 YEAR SALARY HISTORY (IN RESUME MARGINS? IF NOT, WRITE-IN HERE):**

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From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: 11.15 meeting
Date: Friday, November 15, 2019 2:25:14 PM

After 3:15

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2019 2:24:29 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Subject: Re: 11.15 meeting

I stepped out with joby, give me a call this afternoon and let me know how it went. I won't be back to the office until about 245

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2019 12:28:34 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: 11.15 meeting

Sounds good. I will see you then!

On Fri, Nov 15, 2019 at 12:24 Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> I think we discussed 1:15 but either works for me.
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Friday, November 15, 2019 12:24 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** 11.15 meeting
>
> Hi Thor,
>
> Just double checking what time I should come by your office today before my interview. I forgot if we decided on 1:15 or 1:30.
>
> Thanks,

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(b) (6)

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From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Bcc: Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Job Inquiry-referred by John Lebeaux
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:32:08 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Hey Tommy,

I hope you're doing well.

Do you want to have a chat on the phone tomorrow morning? Maybe at 9-9:30?

Let me know!

Best,

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@bentley.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:30 PM
To: Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>
Cc: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Job Inquiry-referred by John Lebeaux

Thank you, I appreciate your assistance in this matter. I look forward to hearing from Mr. Christianson.

Regards,
(b) (6)

From: Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:dudley.hoskins@usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 11:50 AM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@bentley.edu>
Cc: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Job Inquiry-referred by John Lebeaux

Hi (b) (6),

Thanks so much for the note and follow-up.

Yes indeed, I have visited with Commissioner Lebeaux a couple of times about your interest in coming on board at USDA, and I had a chance to introduce him to my colleague, Thor Christianson (cc'd), who is USDA's White House Liaison and best situated to help provide insights on status, process, and potential next steps.

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I know Thor has your information, but I am copying him here in case you all want to connect directly.

Please let me know if I can be a resource on any fronts, and please relay my gratitude to Commissioner Lebeaux for ensuring we have your resume and helping us connect with a great candidate!

Many thanks (b) (6). - dudley

Dudley Hoskins
Senior Advisor
Office of the Secretary

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-720-9925
Cell: 202-407-6967
dudley hoskins@osec.usda.gov

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6) @bentley.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC <dudley.hoskins@usda.gov>
Subject: Job Inquiry-referred by John Lebeaux

Hello Mr. Hoskins,

My name is (b) (6) and I am writing to express my interest in a position in the Department of Agriculture. I am reaching out to you per the recommendation of Massachusetts Agriculture Secretary **John Lebeaux.** He had mentioned that he spoke to you about this last week and strongly recommended that I reach out to you. I recently graduated from Bentley University with a degree in Finance-Economics and a minor in Politics and would like to begin my career in the Department of Agriculture. I have previous experience working in the government as a White House Intern.

Attached please find my resume for your review. I appreciate the benefit of your expertise in navigating through the process of embarking on a career in the Federal government. I can be reached at (b) (6) @bentley.edu or (b) (6).

Thank you very much,

(b) (6)

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From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: (b) (6) :: USDA In-Person Interview, Wednesday, January 8th , 2020 at 1:00pm EST (East Coast Time).
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 8:50:15 AM

Good morning (b) (6),

I've circulated your resume around and once I get a response, I'll set up another meeting.

- Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 3:12 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: (b) (6) :: USDA In-Person Interview, Wednesday, January 8th , 2020 at 1:00pm EST (East Coast Time).

Hey Thor,

Hope it's a good week. All is good on my end.

Wanted to circle back to see if anything opened up at the Dept with regards to vacant spots.

I'm still interested and just wanted to check-in.

Best,
(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 10, 2020, at 12:02 PM, Mann, LeTonya OSEC/WHL, Washington, DC <letonya.mann@usda.gov> wrote:

> You are most welcome.
>
> Talk to you soon!
>
> **LeTonya B. Mann**
> Program Analyst – White House Liaison Office
> Office of the Secretary
> <image001.png>
> United States Department of Agriculture
> Office: 202-205-2258
> Cell: (b) (6)
>
> **From:** (b) (6)
>
> <(b) (6)>

Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Mann, LeTonya OSEC/WHL, Washington, DC <letonya.mann@usda.gov>
Cc: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: (b) (6) :: USDA In-Person Interview, Wednesday, January 8th , 2020 at 1:00pm EST (East Coast Time).

Hi LeTonya and Thor,

Thank you LeTonya for setting up Wednesday's meeting, and it was good to speak with you Thor.

It was great to visit the USDA. I look forward to a future visit.

Hope you both are having a good week.

Kind regards,
(b) (6)

On Tue, Jan 7, 2020 at 5:15 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

> Thanks, LeTonya,
>
> Looking forward to tomorrow's meeting.
>
> Kind regards,
> (b) (6)
>
> On Tue, Jan 7, 2020 at 5:02 PM Mann, LeTonya OSEC/WHL, Washington, DC <letonya.mann@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> > Good Afternoon (b) (6) –
> >
> > You are confirmed for an In-person Interview on **Wednesday, January 8th, 2020 at 1:00pm EST (East Coast Time).**
> >
> > On **Wednesday, January 8th, 2020** you should report to the **USDA's Whitten Building**, at 1400 Independence Ave, SW. You should enter through the **Jefferson Drive entrance**, located on the National Mall (directly across from the Smithsonian Museum of American History).
> >
> > a. The nearest Metro stop is Smithsonian Station on the Blue, Orange, and Silver lines

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b. The following link is a map which shows you exactly where the Jefferson Drive entrance to the Whitten Building is located: Whitten Building

c. When you arrive, let the Security Guards know that you have a meeting scheduled in the **White House Liaison's Office** and have them call **202-720-2406**.

Your interviewer(s) will include:

- Thor Christianson, White House Liaison, USDA

Please do not hesitate to call or email with any questions. We look forward to meeting you on **Wednesday, January 8th , 2020 at 1:00pm EST (East Coast Time).**

Thank You,

LeTonya B. Mann
Program Analyst – White House Liaison Office
Office of the Secretary

<image001.png>

United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-205-2258
Cell: (b) (6)

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From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Bethanny Lawson
Subject: RE: Status update
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:20:17 AM

Good morning Bethanny,

You're still in vetting unfortunately, they're moving as fast as a turtle on a cold day. I'll let you know when I know more!

Best,

Thor

From: Bethanny Lawson <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 8:02 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Status update

Hey Thor,

I wanted to check in and see if there is any progression on the clearance process? Is not, no problem, just curious!

Bethanny
--

Bethanny Lawson

Bethanny's Books
www.bethannysbooks.webs.com OR Bethanny's Books on Facebook
"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."
~Norman Vincent Peale

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Bethanny Lawson
Subject: RE: Answer to Job Offer
Date: Friday, February 14, 2020 3:31:39 PM

Thanks! Have a great weekend!

From: Bethanny Lawson <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 3:19 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Answer to Job Offer

Hi Thor,

I'm excited to be joining as well! Attached are the completed documents.

Best,
Bethanny

On Fri, Feb 14, 2020 at 7:20 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Good morning Bethanny,
>
> That is great news to hear! We're excited to bring you on board!
>
> The next steps are for you to refill out these PPO docs (Attached). Given that you were recently vetted for your internship you won't have to have a full vet, they'll just want these on file. I'm going to submit your paperwork this morning to our HR to get the ball rolling on our side. I'm hoping to get you onboard as soon as possible. I'm going to keep you updated as things progress and once you're cleared to start, I'll be able to give you a start date that will allow you enough time to move back to DC and get situated.
>
> Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. You can call me on my cell (202-913-3062) or email me.
>
> Looking forward to bringing you on board!
>
> Thanks,
>
> Thor
>
> **From:** Bethanny Lawson <(b) (6) [redacted]>
> **Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2020 8:50 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Answer to Job Offer

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi Thor,

Thanks for giving me the time to weigh my options and make a decision between job offers. I would love the opportunity to work as a correspondent for the USDA. Please let me know what next steps you need from me to get the process started.

Thank you, and looking forward to continuing to work with you!
Bethanny

--
Bethanny Lawson
(b) (6)

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--

Bethanny Lawson

Bethanny's Books

www.bethannysbooks.webs.com OR Bethanny's Books on Facebook
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~Norman Vincent Peale

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Bethanny Lawson
Subject: RE: Answer to Job Offer
Date: Friday, February 14, 2020 8:20:50 AM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf

Attachments are duplicates of Attachments on pg. 6

Good morning Bethanny,

That is great news to hear! We're excited to bring you on board!

The next steps are for you to refill out these PPO docs (Attached). Given that you were recently vetted for your internship you won't have to have a full vet, they'll just want these on file. I'm going to submit your paperwork this morning to our HR to get the ball rolling on our side. I'm hoping to get you onboard as soon as possible. I'm going to keep you updated as things progress and once you're cleared to start, I'll be able to give you a start date that will allow you enough time to move back to DC and get situated.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. You can call me on my cell (202-913-3062) or email me.

Looking forward to bringing you on board!

Thanks,

Thor

From: Bethanny Lawson <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 8:50 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Answer to Job Offer

Hi Thor,

Thanks for giving me the time to weigh my options and make a decision between job offers. I would love the opportunity to work as a correspondent for the USDA. Please let me know what next steps you need from me to get the process started.

Thank you, and looking forward to continuing to work with you!
Bethanny

--
Bethanny Lawson
(b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Bethanny Lawson
Subject: RE: Phone Call
Date: Monday, January 27, 2020 11:34:17 AM

Hi Bethanny,

Sorry for the late response, I got dragged into a meeting. Can you call me tomorrow morning around 10 est?

Thanks!

Thor

From: Bethanny Lawson <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 10:48 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Phone Call

Hi Thor,

I tried to call you this morning but it must have been bad timing. I am busy until 5 today, but if you have a time that is good to call tomorrow I can make it work!

Thanks,
Bethanny

On Mon, Jan 27, 2020 at 9:16 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Good morning Bethanny,
>
> Could you please give me a call when you're free today? 202-913-3062
>
> Thanks!
>
> Thor
>
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Bethanny Lawson
Subject: RE: Writing Test
Date: Friday, January 24, 2020 2:07:27 PM

Thanks!

From: Bethanny Lawson <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 2:03 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Writing Test

Thor,

Attached are my completed response letters.

Thanks,
Bethanny

On Fri, Jan 24, 2020 at 11:12 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Attached. Please send back in 2 hours.
>
> Thanks!
>
> Thor
>
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--

Bethanny Lawson

Bethanny's Books

www.bethannysbooks.webs.com OR Bethanny's Books on Facebook

"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."
~Norman Vincent Peale

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Writing Test
Date: Friday, January 24, 2020 12:12:25 PM
Attachments: Scan.pdf

Attached. Please send back in 2 hours.

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



August 2, 2019

Via Electronic Mail

Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250-0244

Re: Mango Promotion, Research and Information Order; Referendum on Inclusion of Frozen Mangoes (AMS-SC-17-0002 and AMS-SC-18-0023C)

Dear Secretary Perdue:

The American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI) is writing to express serious concerns with a recent announcement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) that imported frozen mangoes would be added as a covered commodity in its fresh mango national research and promotion program. This action will subject frozen mango importers to millions of dollars of assessments notwithstanding their objection to being included in what has historically been a promotion program for fresh mangoes. The economic impact on domestic mango importers will be substantial while unjustified.

AFFI is the member-driven national trade association that advances the interests of all segments of the frozen food and beverage industry. The U.S. frozen food and beverage industry employs 670,000 people across the United States and throughout its supply chain and pays more than $11 billion in taxes. AFFI members export over $620 million annually worldwide in frozen fruits and vegetables alone.

On July 19, 2019, AMS announced the addition of frozen mangoes to the Mango Promotion, Research and Information Order (administered by the Mango Board) as a consummation of the process that began with publication of a proposal on April 6, 2019 and final rule (AMS-SC-17-0002) on February 21, 2019. At AFFI's request, AMS reopened the comment period on the rule, but made no changes in response to comments and maintained the original effective date, which was two days after publication of the final rule.

Both in comments on the proposed rule and in meetings with AMS officials, AFFI explained the central flaws and misplaced assumptions in the final rule and the referendum process, including:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- The final rule (AMS-SC-17-0002) was published on the Mango Board's recommendation while ignoring the concerns and modifications sought by [redacted] and frozen mango importers.
- The Mango Board at the time of passing its recommendation was comprised entirely of fresh mango importers and first handlers. Neither the Mango Board nor AMS consulted directly with [redacted] or frozen mango importers in the months and years leading up to its decision.
- Ballots made available to the supply chain were based on established eligibility criteria, however AMS was fully aware that the predominant voting constituents represented the fresh mango supply chain.

Given this background, AMS did not consider potential issues arising from disproportionately represented voting groups (fresh vs frozen mangoes). Instead, AMS relied on a simple majority vote to determine the outcome of the referendum. [redacted] believes that, from its inception, the final AMS rule and related referendum process was assembled to secure a referendum vote that guaranteed inclusion of frozen mangoes. This is why [redacted] urged that, because the revised order would only directly affect frozen mango importers, only votes from frozen mango importers and first handlers should be considered for the purposes of determining the outcome of the referendum.

The results of the referendum clearly demonstrate its inadequacy. Of significance:

- Only 40 of the 160 entities that received the ballots voted, representing only 25% of the total. This is a poorly designed referendum as it did not establish a minimum threshold of votes required to ensure a representative referendum.
- Of the 40 voting entities, 21 entities (both fresh and frozen mango entities) voted in favor of the referendum to include frozen mangoes in the mango order, representing 52.5% of the total vote. The data also show the referendum passed by only one additional vote in its favor.
- Among the 18 entities representing fresh mangoes, 13 voted in favor of the referendum accounting for approximately 72% of this group.
- Among the 22 entities representing frozen mangoes, 14 voted against the referendum, accounting for approximately 64% of this group.
- Combined, the voting results demonstrate a heavy weighting of votes by fresh mango entities who voted in favor of the referendum.
- It is also unclear how votes representing entities that engaged in both fresh and frozen mangoes were considered or counted.

These analyses demonstrate the significant impact of fresh mango entities and their votes in this referendum leading to biased interpretations of the needs and desires of the frozen mango industry.

Furthermore, per the final AMS rule dated February 21, 2019, the date of assessment was scheduled as July 22, 2019. Since that publication, the referendum was delayed however the assessment date was not. In fact, the notice

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

of referendum results was uploaded to the AMS website on Friday, July 19, 2019 and assessment on frozen mangoes started on Monday, July 22, 2019.

The sudden implementation of assessment related to frozen mango imports at the border has led to considerable confusion and disruption in the supply chain. The financial impact is exacerbated by the timing of this process, which was not accounted for by AMS in pursuing this entire exercise. In fact, most frozen mango contracts for the ongoing season have already been settled between different parties in the supply chain and this assessment has caused undue duress on these parties. The confusion resulting from the unexpected assessment and lack of clarity in the process has impacted all entities in the supply chain.

In summary, AFFI objects to the rule (AMS-SC-17-0002), the referendum, its results and the generally arbitrary and capricious nature of the entire process. AFFI respectfully requests that AMS-SC-17-0002 be rescinded immediately so that frozen mango importers may be relieved of the forced payments instituted under this federal program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Alison Bodor
President and CEO

cc: Heather M. Pichelman, Director, Promotion and Economics Division;
Jeanette Palmer, AMS Fruit and Vegetable Marketing Specialist

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT





August 2, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write to urge you to finalize the National Organic Program's (NOP) 2015 proposed Origin of Livestock rule which greatly impacts the markets and viability of [redacted] dairy farmers.

We continue to be deeply troubled by what is happening to the dairy industry. According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, commercial milk operations in [redacted] dropped from 367 in 2012 to 286 in 2017, a decrease of 22 percent in 5 years. In [redacted] and across the county, dairy farmers are struggling to keep their businesses open because of a plethora of challenging issues, such as unpredictable markets resulting in low payments to farmers, high costs of production, labor issues, and extremely low profit margins. At the same time, the demand for the organic market continues to increase and nationally, the number of organic farms increased from 14,326 to 18,166 between 2012 and 2017 and the total value of organic sales increased 57 percent, from 3.1 billion to 7.2 billion. Yet, recent issues with oversupply in other parts of the country directly impacts the viability of [redacted] organic dairy farms, as over 25 percent of our commercial dairy farms are selling to organic processors.

On average, [redacted] organic dairy farmers spend $600-$1,300 more per calf than farmers who raise calves conventionally. They follow strict rules and guidelines and are greatly concerned that a few bad actors in other parts of the country are taking advantage of the organic system by diverging from organic standards. The proposed rules would help clarify the standards regarding the transition of conventional dairy cows to organic and the management of breeder stock on organic livestock farms.

Finalizing the proposed rule is an immediate action that the USDA can take to provide much needed relief to dairy farmers. The industry has overwhelmingly supported these changes for over a decade, including thousands of public comments that are on the record in support of the proposed rulemaking.

We are grateful to have the support of the rest of the [redacted] delegation on this issue, who have supported language requests which would require the USDA to finalize the proposed rule within 180 days of enactment, in addition to incorporating the comments and feedback from the public during the rulemaking process.

[redacted] (Voice) [redacted] FAX [redacted]1034
[redacted].gov

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On behalf of the [redacted] dairy industry, we urge you to take immediate action to finalize the proposed Origin of Livestock Rule and to not waste any more valuable time by proposing new rules to consider.

Furthermore, we would also like to take this opportunity to call for consistent and fair application of all NOP rules, particularly the Access to Pasture rule. The inconsistent enforcement of this rule disadvantages those farmers who adhere to it and harms the organic market and integrity of the NOP itself. There are many stresses that farmers face, and lax or improper application of the NOP rules should not be one of them.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills
Governor

cc: Commissioner Amanda Beal
Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Bonnell, Kyle
Subject: RE: Vanessa
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 5:06:08 PM

Hey Kyle,

Vanessa interviewed for a CA spot this afternoon and knocked it out of the park!

Thanks for attaching (b) (6) resume, I'm going to reach out to her tomorrow and talk with her.

Again, thanks for your help with all of this!

Best,

Thor

From: Bonnell, Kyle <Kyle.Bonnell@heritage.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 4:41 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Vanessa

Thanks, Thor! Hope it's going well with Vanessa and (b) (6).

I've attached the resume of another potential CA candidate – (b) (6) . (b) (6) interned at Heritage Action last semester and reportedly did a great job there. She's finishing school in (b) (6) in May and is interested in joining the Administration at USDA as soon as she finishes.

Kyle Bonnell
Recruitment and Job Bank Manager
The Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-608-1556
heritage.org

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 12:17 PM
To: Bonnell, Kyle <Kyle.Bonnell@heritage.org>
Subject: RE: Vanessa

Hey Kyle,

Thanks! I'll reach out to her today.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Best,

Thor

From: Bonnell, Kyle <Kyle.Bonnell@heritage.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 9:19 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Vanessa

Thor,

Sure thing!

I've attached the resume of a potential CA candidate for your consideration. I don't know her personally and can't speak to her work product, but she completed a White House internship and expressed to me her interest in serving at USDA.

Please feel free to contact her directly if you'd like.

Thanks,
Kyle

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 1:35 PM
To: Bonnell, Kyle <Kyle.Bonnell@heritage.org>
Subject: RE: Vanessa

Thanks! I appreciate it!

Best,

Thor

From: Bonnell, Kyle <Kyle.Bonnell@heritage.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 8:45 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Vanessa

Thor,

Thanks so much for the update! I'm glad to hear that the meeting went well.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I'm hoping to be able to send over a few CA candidates soon and will keep searching for potential civil rights office candidates.

Best,
Kyle

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 8:22:45 AM
To: Bonnell, Kyle <Kyle.Bonnell@heritage.org>
Subject: Re: Vanessa

Good morning Kyle,

Thank you very much for Vanessa's resume. I met with her yesterday evening and she knocked it out of the park! We talked about all the openings we have over here and in addition to the correspondence position, she was interested in the CA spots I have open as well. I'm going to shoot her resume around and she's doing a writing test for me Friday afternoon.

Thank you very much for your help!

Best,

Thor

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202-608-1556

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Bonnell, Kyle
Subject: Re: USDA Political Openings
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 7:53:28 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Hey Kyle,

I enjoyed our chat today!

Thanks for the resume! I'm going to reach out tomorrow morning and chat with her.

Thanks for your help with all of this, I really appreciate it!

Best,

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Bonnell, Kyle <Kyle.Bonnell@heritage.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 7:42:25 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Political Openings

Thor,

Great talking with you!

I've attached the resume of Vanessa Barnes as a potential candidate for a writing job in the Executive Secretariat office. She's interested in the role. Vanessa is doing a great job for us now as a Heritage intern, and double majored in both English and Political Science in college.

Please feel free to reach out to her directly if you'd like, or let me know if you have any questions. I'll send along potential candidates for other roles as I hear back from them about their interest in serving in the Administration.

Best,
Kyle

From: Bonnell, Kyle
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Political Openings

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi Thor,

Same! And 3:45 works for me this afternoon. Direct line is best: 202-608-1556.

Thanks,
Kyle

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 3:15 PM
To: Bonnell, Kyle <Kyle.Bonnell@heritage.org>
Subject: RE: USDA Political Openings

Hi Kyle,

I'm glad Wes was able to connect us! I'm free at 3:45, are you available to chat then? What's the best number to reach you?

Looking forward to it!

Best,

Thor

From: Bonnell, Kyle <Kyle.Bonnell@heritage.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 2:31 PM
To: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>; Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Political Openings

Thanks, Wes!

Thor,

Great to meet you virtually! If you have time for a quick call this afternoon or tomorrow afternoon, please let me know. I'd be happy to hear how I could potentially help and talk about Heritage's Job Bank.

Best,
Kyle

From: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 1:07 PM
To: Bonnell, Kyle <Kyle.Bonnell@heritage.org>; Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Political Openings

Oh wow indeed it does, and thanks, Kyle! We can touch base separately on that.

Connecting you with our White House Liaison, Thor Christianson. Thor, as I mentioned, Kyle is a friend over at THF who helps run their job bank and re-occuring job list serve. I think you both will get along famously!

Let me know if there is anything that either of you need. Always happy to help!

Best,

Wes

From: Bonnell, Kyle <Kyle.Bonnell@heritage.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 12:55 PM
To: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Political Openings

Hey Wes,

Thanks for reaching out! It's great to hear from you.

I'd be happy to help with your appointee openings and connect with your White House Liaison. Many thanks for offering! If it works on your end, I could do a call this week.

Yes, let's! Still hard to believe that was eight years ago this semester. Time flies.

Best,
Kyle

From: Gwinn, Wesley - OSEC, Washington, DC <wesley.gwinn@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 11:01 AM
To: Bonnell, Kyle <Kyle.Bonnell@heritage.org>
Subject: USDA Political Openings

Hey Kyle,

I hope you are having a great day so far, and that things are going well over at Heritage!

I'm over at USDA, and we are currently looking to fill some openings amongst our political staff; and we are interested in connecting to help fill some of those open positions. If you are interested, I am happy to connect you to our White House Liaison to discuss the details further.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Also, let's take some time and catch up soon! I see Kevin when he comes into town (and I know a bunch of our other folks are still around) and it may be a good opportunity for a '12 class reunion haha.

Thanks Kyle!

Wes

Wesley A. Gwinn
Office of the Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Calogero, Barry - FSA, Hamilton Square, NJ
Cc: Sean Gertner
Subject: Re: : White House Trip Sean Gertner
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 11:09:56 AM

Good morning Barry,

Thanks for pinging me about this.

I just submitted the request, I'll let you know what they say.

Thanks,

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Calogero, Barry - FSA, Hamilton Square, NJ <barry.calogero@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 9:02:04 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Cc: Sean Gertner <sgertner@gertneresq.com>
Subject: : White House Trip Sean Gertner

Good Morning Thor:

Last we communicated you asked me to remind you the second week in March about the below request.

Reminder: Sean Gertner is on the NJ State Committee, his request date for the below family members is
April 3rd 2020

Please confirm and advice what if anything else might be needed.

Thank you in advance, appreciate your assistance.

The names and Birthdates are below.

- Sean D. Gertner (b) (6)

(b) (6)

FYI: I included Sean on the email incase you needed to contact hiom directly.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Barry Calogero

Barry Calogero
State Executive Director
Farm Service Agency
United States Department of Agriculture
Phone: (609) 587-0104 / Cell # (609) 495-4700 / FAX: (855) 305-6635

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Swing by
Date: Thursday, March 5, 2020 8:44:21 AM

(b) (6),

Not a problem at all! Kaitlyn is fantastic, you'll have fun working with her through the PPO and onboarding process. Good luck at EPA!

- Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 8:42 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Swing by

Hey Thor- Thank you so much for reaching out. I wanted to make you aware late yesterday I received a call from EPA and they made me a tentative offer pending my background check. I did accept their offer. Given how valuable your time is I wanted to make you aware. I really appreciate you consideration, and I hope we can work together in the future.

(b) (6)

On Thu, Mar 5, 2020 at 8:32 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Good morning (b) (6),
>
> I'm looking forward to our meeting today.
>
> After your meeting with Matt, please ask his assistant to take you to my office in 536A.
>
> My phone number is 202-913-3062 in case anything happens.
>
> Thanks!
>
> Thor
>
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Forms
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 2:41:03 PM

Happy Wednesday!

Ok! Will do!

I'm going to be meeting with somebody tomorrow to talk about the other ones that are opening up in rural development and I'm also trying to get them to let me hire somebody so I'll make sure to keep you in the loop about everything.

Thanks!

- Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 10:02 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Forms

Hi Thor,

I would absolutely love that if you do not mind. I really enjoyed meeting you and Latonya on Monday. You all are so kind and so welcoming! That is the sort of team I ultimately want to work with and around. Please keep me in mind for other opportunities that you think may be a good fit.

Have a great Wednesday!

All my best,
(b) (6)

On Tue, Nov 19, 2019 at 6:00 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Good evening (b) (6),
>
> Thanks for getting back to me!
>
> I understand your thought process and totally get it. We actually filled the position in the Secretary's office this morning but there are a few other open ones and also more open up all the time.
>
> Do you want me to send your resume to the other open positions and then keep you updated as other opportunities arise?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks and have a great night!

Best,

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 5:10:54 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Forms

Hey Thor,

I hope everything at USDA is going well today! I have had some time to think over our chat this morning. Although I truly believe a correspondence position would be an amazing learning and professional growth opportunity, I think beginning in a staff assistant role may be more transferable between agencies, especially as someone who is trying to get her foot in the door and is unsure which policy area I am interested in pursuing long-term. Is there any chance the staff assistant opening in the Secretary's office would still be a potential option?

As promised, I have attached the vetting paperwork for you. Thanks again for all of your help. I truly appreciate it!

All my best,

(b) (6)

On Tue, Nov 19, 2019 at 8:47 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hey (b) (6) !
>
> These are the forms that I need filled out ASAP.
>
> We'll work on a time later today or tomorrow when you can do that writing sample.
>
> Thanks!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: meeting on Monday
Date: Friday, November 15, 2019 5:03:06 PM

Fantastic! I'll see you Monday morning!

Have a great weekend!

Best,

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2019 4:58:30 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: meeting on Monday

Hey Thor,

Thanks for calling and checking back in! Monday at 8:30AM works well. I will ask to meet with you when I arrive.

Thanks again, and enjoy your weekend!

All my best,
(b) (6)

On Fri, Nov 15, 2019 at 4:29 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hey (b) (6),
>
> Let me know if you can come in at 8:30am on Monday!
>
> Thanks,
>
> Thor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Resume
Date: Friday, December 13, 2019 8:04:42 AM

Yep! I'll send it back in a bit

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2019 8:03:36 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Resume

Thor:

Thanks for taking the time this morning; attached is my resume. Whatever additions or changes you suggest, I'd be more than appreciative to implement.

Thanks,

-(b) (6)

(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: resume
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:10:38 AM
Attachments: thor christianson resume.docx Attachment (1 page) withheld under FOIA Ex. 6

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: USDA Position
Date: Friday, December 13, 2019 10:17:24 AM

Good morning (b) (6),

Thanks for letting me know, I appreciate it.

Keep in touch and let me know when you're thinking about coming to USDA and we can have another conversation.

Thanks,

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 3:40 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: USDA Position

Thor,

Hope you're having a good week. I wanted to circle back with you as my circumstances have changed within the last 48 hours. I was offered a (b) (6) and have decided to stay on the Hill for a little bit longer. I want to learn about as much as I can before I head into a more specialized field.

That being said, I am still very interested in working at USDA, just decided that now wasn't the right time. Please keep me in mind down the road for future positions at USDA. Whether it is in the Secretary's office or not, I am passionate about coming to USDA in a few months.

Thank you so much for your time, consideration and communication. I have really enjoyed the process at USDA and look forward to staying in touch. If you ever need something from (b) (6) please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best,

(b) (6)

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delete the email immediately.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Follow Up
Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 5:37:29 PM

Thank you very much! These look great, well done!

I'm meeting with the chief and deputy chiefs of staff and I'm going to show them your work and resume. I'll make sure to call you as soon as the meeting is over.

Again, thank you very much for taking the time to do this test!

Have a great evening!

- Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 5:33 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow Up

Thor,

Attached are the two writing samples. I wrote them in a similar format as to what we do on the Hill as I wasn't sure of the USDA's format- hope that isn't a problem.

Best,

(b) (6)

On Wed, Dec 4, 2019 at 3:50 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

> No worries! I'll get working on them now.
>
> On Wed, Dec 4, 2019 at 3:43 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> > Oh lord, I just got back from a reception and completely forgot. I'm so sorry!
> >
> > Here they are!
> >
> > Good Luck!
> > **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> > **Sent:** Wednesday, December 4, 2019 3:42 PM
> > **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> > **Subject:** Re: Follow Up

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hey Thor,

I haven't received any letters yet. Just wanted to double check that they were sent to me!

(b) (6)

On Wed, Dec 4, 2019 at 1:25 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

> Great. Thanks!
>
> On Wed, Dec 4, 2019 at 10:23 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> > So just another follow up, today at 3 I'll be sending you two actual letters that we have received and you'll have exactly two hours to send your responses.
> >
> > **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> > **Sent:** Tuesday, December 3, 2019 2:06 PM
> > **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> > **Subject:** Re: Follow Up
> >
> > So sorry Thor- totally missed your email yesterday! Could you send it tomorrow around 3?
> >
> > (b) (6)
> >
> > On Tue, Dec 3, 2019 at 2:00 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
> >
> > > Hey (b) (6),
> > >
> > > I'm just following up on our discussion yesterday. Any thoughts on times to do the writing test?
> > >
> > > Thanks,
> > >
> > > Thor
> > >
> > > 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.

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From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Follow Up
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 2:10:37 PM

Not a problem! Sure, 3 works for me!

Thanks!

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 2:06 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow Up

So sorry Thor- totally missed your email yesterday! Could you send it tomorrow around 3?

(b) (6)

On Tue, Dec 3, 2019 at 2:00 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hey (b) (6),
>
> I'm just following up on our discussion yesterday. Any thoughts on times to do the writing test?
>
> Thanks,
>
> Thor
>
> 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.

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From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 3:00:43 PM

Absolutely!

See you then!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 2:59:38 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Forms

Yes 8:30 works great for me! Just to confirm- December 2 @ 8:30am?

(b) (6)

On Wed, Nov 27, 2019 at 1:49 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hey (b) (6),
>
> Sorry about that, that was completely my fault and I apologize.
>
> What time works for you? As of now, my only meeting is from 11-11:30. Does anytime before or after work for you? Does 8:30 work?
>
> Have a great thanksgiving!
>
> - Thor
>
> Get Outlook for iOS
>
> ---
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Wednesday, November 27, 2019 2:45:35 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Forms
>
> Hi Thor,
>
> I never got a calendar invite for Monday so I wanted to check and confirm if that day still worked. Also, I believe we said 10, but I am wondering if there is a different time I could come by. If not, I can make it work but wanted to check! Enjoy your holiday weekend!
>
> Best,
>
> (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On Wed, Nov 20, 2019 at 7:47 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

Hey Thor-

Great to meet you as well!

I've attached all the information as documents as well as my resume. Let me know if you need anything else!

Best,
(b) (6)

On Wed, Nov 20, 2019 at 2:44 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

Hey (b) (6)!

I hope you are doing well!

I enjoyed meeting you the other day!

I've attached some forms to this email, if you could please fill them out whenever you're free, I'd appreciate it.

I'm looking at some open positions for you so in a few days I hope to reach out with an update.

Thanks!

- Thor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 2:44:54 PM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf

Attachments are duplicates of Attachments on pg. 6

Hey (b) (6)!

I hope you are doing well!

I enjoyed meeting you the other day!

I've attached some forms to this email, if you could please fill them out whenever you're free, I'd appreciate it.

I'm looking at some open positions for you so in a few days I hope to reach out with an update.

Thanks!

- Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Clinton Joseph; Mann, LeTonya OSEC/WHL, Washington, DC
Cc: Joseph, Clinton - FAS, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: (b) (6) :: USDA In-Person Interview, Wednesday, January 8th , 2020 at 9:00am EST (East Coast Time).
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 7:20:48 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Absolutely, not a problem. Flying is a nightmare on a good day

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Clinton Joseph <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 7:19:08 AM
To: Mann, LeTonya OSEC/WHL, Washington, DC <letonya.mann@usda.gov>
Cc: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>; Joseph, Clinton - FAS, Washington, DC <Clinton.Joseph@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: (b) (6) :: USDA In-Person Interview, Wednesday, January 8th , 2020 at 9:00am EST (East Coast Time).

Good morning Letonya and Thor,

Thank you for your confirmation email on the In-person interview.

There are some delays on my flight returning to Washington, DC this morning. Can we reschedule for tomorrow at 9:00am. Apologies for the late notice. I would have made it in early, if not for the flight delays.

Thank you for your understanding.

Best Regards,
(b) (6)

On Tue, Jan 7, 2020 at 5:25 PM Mann, LeTonya OSEC/WHL, Washington, DC <letonya.mann@usda.gov> wrote:

> Good Afternoon (b) (6) –
>
> You are confirmed for an In-person Interview on **Wednesday, January 8th, 2020 at 9:00am EST (East Coast Time).**
>
> On **Wednesday, January 8th, 2020** you should report to the **USDA's Whitten Building**, at 1400 Independence Ave, SW. You should enter through the **Jefferson Drive entrance**, located on the National Mall (directly across from the Smithsonian Museum of American History).

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

a. The nearest Metro stop is Smithsonian Station on the Blue, Orange, and Silver lines

b. The following link is a map which shows you exactly where the Jefferson Drive entrance to the Whitten Building is located: Whitten Building

c. When you arrive, let the Security Guards know that you have a meeting scheduled in the **White House Liaison's Office** and have them call **202-720-2406**.

Your interviewer(s) will include:

- Thor Christianson, White House Liaison, USDA

Please do not hesitate to call or email with any questions. We look forward to meeting you on **Wednesday, January 8th , 2020 at 9:00am EST (East Coast Time).**

Thank You,

LeTonya B. Mann
Program Analyst – White House Liaison Office
Office of the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-205-2258
Cell: (b) (6)

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> believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Any further assistance
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 4:27:43 PM

Hey man,

Thanks for reaching out!

I'll be reaching out later this week, just trying to figure a few things out.

Have a great day!

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Any further assistance

Thor,

I wanted to send you a note thanking you for everything you've done thus far in the interview process.

Let me know if I can be of any further assistance!

Best,
(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Forms
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 10:33:36 AM
Attachments: PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf Attachment is a duplicate of an Attachment on pg. 6

Thanks for that one, but I need the PPO Research questionnaire (Attached).

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 10:22 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Forms

Yes, sorry. Here it is!

On Wed, Jan 15, 2020 at 10:17 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Thanks! Could you please resend the PPO Questionnaire in the fillable PDF?
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2020 10:15 AM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Forms
>
> Thor,
>
> Here are my responses to the forms. Thank you.
>
> On Tue, Jan 14, 2020 at 1:35 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:
>
> > Definitely! Thank you again for the opportunities! I look forward to continuing the process.
> >
> > (b) (6)
> >
> > On Tue, Jan 14, 2020 at 12:45 Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
> >
> > > Hi (b) (6),
> > >
> > > Could you please fill out the attached forms and send them back to me whenever you have a chance?
> > >
> > > Thanks!
> > >
> > > Thor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Writing Test
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 5:22:16 PM

Thanks!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 4:55:38 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Writing Test

Hi Thor,

Here they are. I will return the forms by tomorrow morning, as well. Thank you.

On Tue, Jan 14, 2020 at 3:00 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> I've attached two letters. Please write responses to them and send me your responses back in two hours.
>
> Thanks and good luck!
>
> Thor
>
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Writing Test
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 3:00:07 PM
Attachments: Scan.pdf Attachment is a duplicate of the Attachment on pg. 26

I've attached two letters. Please write responses to them and send me your responses back in two hours.

Thanks and good luck!

Thor

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From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 12:44:59 PM
Attachments: PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
13 Point Form.docx

Attachments are duplicates of Attachments on pg. 6

Hi (b) (6),

Could you please fill out the attached forms and send them back to me whenever you have a chance?

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Phone Call
Date: Monday, January 27, 2020 3:45:03 PM

Yeah man, sorry, I've been running around for the past 3-4 days putting out fires that I myself lit, which is always fun to do. I was just going to let you know that unfortunately, we're still waiting on PPO so we're in this holding pattern. Once that process is cleared, we'll be reaching out to have further discussions with you. David and I will call you that day.

Thanks and sorry for the tardy response.

- Thor

-----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 3:41 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Phone Call

Hey just checking in you because you never called on Friday is everything okay?

Sent from my iPhone

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Interview
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2020 3:07:47 PM

Hey man,

Yeah, we're waiting to hear back from the White House on a few things, I'll call you tomorrow to let you know where things are going.

Thanks!

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 3:07 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Interview

Thor,

I was just checking in to see if you have heard anything, I had the interview last Wednesday and they said I would hear something by the end of last week or this week. I am not growing impatient or anything I am just curious as to the situation.

Thanks,
(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Writing Test
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 5:54:56 PM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf

Attachments are duplicates of Attachments on pg. 6

Thanks! Can you please also fill out these forms and get them back to me asap?

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 5:48 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Writing Test

Here are my completed letters. I saved them as PDF's, if there is anything else you need let me know!
(b) (6)

On Wed, Jan 8, 2020 at 3:35 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Alright man, I've attached the two letters. Please send me back the responses in exactly two hours or less.
>
> Good luck!
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 4:34 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Writing Test
>
> Ready whenever you are!
> (b) (6)

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From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Writing Test
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 4:35:34 PM
Attachments: Scan.pdf Attachment is a duplicate of the Attachment on pg. 26

Alright man, I've attached the two letters. Please send me back the responses in exactly two hours or less.

Good luck!

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Writing Test

Ready whenever you are!
(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Phone Call
Date: Monday, January 6, 2020 5:00:59 PM

Let's do 4 pm est.

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 5:00 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Phone Call

Hey I am not sure if you saw my message from earlier, but I was just wondering what time you wanted to do the phone call tomorrow since I guess you were busy today.
(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: follow up
Date: Friday, January 3, 2020 3:16:15 PM

Actually, if possible, can we make it 6 EST? I hate moving things around like this and I apologize.

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: follow up

CST or EST?
(b) (6)

On Fri, Jan 3, 2020 at 1:25 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Absolutely, I'll call you around 4:30-5
>
> Get Outlook for iOS
>
> ---
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Friday, January 3, 2020 2:23:53 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: follow up
>
> Just checking in to make sure we are still on for today! My phone is working fine now.
> (b) (6)
>
> On Thu, Jan 2, 2020 at 2:30 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:
>
> > That works great. I will have this figured out by then
> > (b) (6)
> >
> > On Thu, Jan 2, 2020 at 2:26 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
> >
> > > Yeah man, absolutely. I'll give you a call in the late afternoon if that's ok.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 2:32 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: follow up

Thor, my phone is giving me all sorts of trouble right now I can't even get it to turn on. Can we move the call to to tomorrow?

(b) (6)

On Wed, Jan 1, 2020 at 8:48 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

> That works perfect. Call me at (b) (6), same number as last time!
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On Jan 1, 2020, at 8:20 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
> >
> > Does 2pm work?
> >
> > Get Outlook for iOS
> >
> > ---
> >
> > **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> > **Sent:** Wednesday, January 1, 2020 8:56:34 PM
> > **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> > **Subject:** Re: follow up
> >
> > Yes I am. Sorry I haven't checked my emails all day. What time tomorrow?
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On Jan 1, 2020, at 7:43 AM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

Hey (b) (6),

I hope you had a great break!

Are you free tomorrow afternoon to follow up on the open positions we have here?

Thanks!

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: follow up
Date: Friday, January 3, 2020 2:32:06 PM

Eastern if that's ok?

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 2:27:03 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: follow up

CST or EST?
(b) (6)

On Fri, Jan 3, 2020 at 1:25 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Absolutely, I'll call you around 4:30-5
>
> Get Outlook for iOS
>
> ---
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Friday, January 3, 2020 2:23:53 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: follow up
>
> Just checking in to make sure we are still on for today! My phone is working fine now.
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> >
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> >
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> > >
> > > **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> > > **Sent:** Thursday, January 2, 2020 2:32 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: follow up

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(b) (6)

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> >
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> > **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> > **Subject:** Re: follow up
> >
> > Yes I am. Sorry I haven't checked my emails all day. What time tomorrow?
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> > Sent from my iPhone

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Hey (b) (6),

I hope you had a great break!

Are you free tomorrow afternoon to follow up on the open positions we have here?

Thanks!

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Devon Westhill
Cc: Harvey, Nathan - OGC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Three resumes
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 9:04:01 AM

I've met with (b) (6) and Joby has met with (b) (6).

From: Devon Westhill <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 8:58 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Cc: Harvey, Nathan - OGC, Washington, DC <Nathan.Harvey@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Three resumes

Thanks, Thor. Have you met with any of these people and have thoughts on them, by chance?

Sent from mobile. Excuse typos/brevity.

On Tue, Feb 25, 2020, 8:11 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Good morning Devon,
>
> I've attached three resumes for your review. Per your earlier email, I'm going to ping the DOD/DHS/VA again this morning. As I see others I'll send them your way.
>
> Best,
>
> Thor
>
> 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.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Devon Westhill
Cc: Harvey, Nathan - OGC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Three resumes
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 8:11:27 AM
Attachments: (b) (6) Resume.pdf
(b) (6) 2020 .pdf
(b) (6) Resume 2019.pdf Attachment 1-3 (4 pages total) withheld under FOIA Ex. 6

Good morning Devon,

I've attached three resumes for your review. Per your earlier email, I'm going to ping the DOD/DHS/VA again this morning. As I see others I'll send them your way.

Best,

Thor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE:
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 4:32:30 PM

I'll have something sent to you tomorrow that will confirm your start date.

There was an email late last week regarding the public announcement, I'm following up with Kailee, Blake, and Joby tomorrow to discuss how we want to do your rollout. I know comms is working on something.

Regarding resumes, I'm going to look through all of them this evening and tomorrow morning and see if I have any that I think would be helpful. Stand by and I'll be giving you an update tomorrow.

From: Devon Westhill <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 4:27 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject:

Thanks for getting that start date officially firmed up for me, Thor. I'm working with Lorena to set up some things in my first week that require that date to be solid. Also, is there an anticipated public announcement/date for that? Knowing that will also help with the transition and speaking more freely. I don't want to get ahead of public affairs or internal comms.

Finally, did you uncover in your files any resumes of veterans? I'd still like to take a look at any of those although I anticipate sending you over a couple of resumes soon of a couple of people I'm considering. Finally, any good resumes that you have for confidential assistants, I'd appreciate reviewing. I think I will need someone in that role in short order.

Thanks.

Sent from mobile. Excuse typos/brevity.

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Devon Westhill
Subject: Re: Paperwork
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2020 6:28:56 AM

Good morning Devon,

I was going to call you this morning for a quick chat. Please call me whenever you're free. 202-913-3062

- Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Devon Westhill <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 6:25:48 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Paperwork

Thor,

I'm writing to get an update from you. I spoke briefly with Rudy Olivo on Tuesday on a separate matter but he indicated that I should have received additional paperwork from you. I also remember you suggesting that I might receive a follow-up from you earlier in the week. I find it unlikely that I've missed anything from you, but these things happen so I wanted to check-in to prevent unnecessary delays in the process.

Best,
Devon

On Wed, Feb 5, 2020 at 10:20 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Thanks!
>
> **From:** Devon Westhill <(b) (6) [redacted]>
> **Sent:** Wednesday, February 5, 2020 10:14 AM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Paperwork
>
> I just noticed that. Updated attached.
>
> Sent from mobile. Excuse typos/brevity.
>
> On Wed, Feb 5, 2020, 10:09 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

<Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Could you please refill out the bio sheet? When I open it, it's blank.
>
> Thanks!
>
> **From:** Devon Westhill <(b) (6) >
> **Sent:** Wednesday, February 5, 2020 10:07 AM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Paperwork
>
> Thor, Please see the completed documents attached. Let me know if you need anything else from me.
>
> Sent from mobile. Excuse typos/brevity.
>
> On Wed, Feb 5, 2020, 8:54 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> > Please fill out and send back to me asap.
> >
> > Thanks!
> >
> > Thor
> >
> > 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.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Paperwork
Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 8:54:52 AM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Please fill out and send back to me asap.

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Forms
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 1:13:22 PM

Thanks!

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 1:04 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Forms

Thor,

The forms are attached. Let me know if you need anything further.

R/

(b) (6)

On Wed, Jan 22, 2020 at 12:06 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hi (b) (6),
>
> Could you please fill out these forms and get them back to me asap?
>
> Thanks!
>
> - Thor
>
> 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.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 12:06:09 PM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Hi Dustin,

Could you please fill out these forms and get them back to me asap?

Thanks!

- Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Writing Samples
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2020 9:48:11 AM

Thanks!

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 9:44 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Writing Samples

Hey Thor,

Attached are a few different writing samples for your review. I've included a short speech, an op-ed, a press release, and a correspondence letter.

Let me know if this suffices.

Thanks,

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

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: paperwork
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2020 2:02:39 PM

Thanks

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 1:36 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: paperwork

Updated.

On Thu, Jan 9, 2020 at 1:11 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

> Attached is all the completed paperwork.
>
> Thanks,
> (b) (6)
>
> On Wed, Jan 8, 2020 at 10:54 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> > Please fill out and send back to me ASAP.
> >
> > Thanks!
> >
> > Thor
> >
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>
> --
> (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

--

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

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: paperwork
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 10:54:24 AM
Attachments: PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
13 Point Form.docx

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Please fill out and send back to me ASAP.

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: (b) (6) Resume
Date: Friday, January 3, 2020 2:28:34 PM

I might be a tad late getting down to you because I'm in meetings until 4:30. If you take the metro to smithsonian and get off on the Jefferson drive side, my building is right there. Once you go through security I'll be down.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 1:14:16 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: (b) (6) Resume

Hey Thor,

Just wanted to make sure you received my resume.

Also--is the location of the building we are meeting at 1280 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC 20250? Just wanted to make sure I have the right place.

Thanks,
(b) (6)

On Fri, Jan 3, 2020 at 9:20 AM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

> Hey Thor,
>
> Thanks for your flexibility. Attached is my resume.
>
> Look forward to meeting with you today at 4:30pm.
>
> Best,
> (b) (6)
> --
>
> (b) (6)
>
> (b) (6)

--

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: (b) (6) Resume
Date: Friday, January 3, 2020 2:26:35 PM

Hey man,

Sorry for the late response. I received your resume and am looking forward to our discussion.

I'm not at my desk at the moment but it's the building on Jefferson drive. I'll send better instructions when I get back.

Thanks!

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 1:14:16 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: (b) (6) Resume

Hey Thor,

Just wanted to make sure you received my resume.

Also--is the location of the building we are meeting at 1280 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC 20250? Just wanted to make sure I have the right place.

Thanks,
Dylan

On Fri, Jan 3, 2020 at 9:20 AM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

> Hey Thor,
>
> Thanks for your flexibility. Attached is my resume.
>
> Look forward to meeting with you today at 4:30pm.
>
> Best,
> (b) (6)
> --
>
> (b) (6)
>
> (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Eddie Woodhouse
Subject: RE: phone call
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:14:38 PM

Oh, and Roll Tide!

From: Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:08 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: phone call

Thor:

Rep. Greg Murphy (R-NC-03), whose district is heavy ag, just asked me when he can/ should he send a letter speaking to my credentials.

Other House Members (Meadows, Holding, Walker) also offering.

I can tap my Senate guys, if needed.

Previously, the Lt. Governor and the State House Speaker provided support.

,Can you advise on any roles for any of my delegation folks?

Great visit with you yesterday!

-eddie

On Monday, March 9, 2020, 07:33:36 PM UTC, Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6) > wrote:

(b) (6)

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

On Monday, March 9, 2020, 10:04 AM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Absolutely!
>
> Looking forward to it.
>
> - Thor
>
> Get Outlook for iOS
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6) >
> **Sent:** Sunday, March 8, 2020 7:25:19 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: phone call
>
> Thor:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Indeed!

May we speak Monday afternoon?

I have an issue with (b) (6) [redacted].

Thank you for your outreach!

-eddie

On Sunday, March 8, 2020, 05:30:05 PM UTC, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <thor.christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Eddie,

I hope you are doing well. Sorry to bother you on a Sunday.

There's a position that has come open, the state executive director for FSA in North Carolina. I think you'd be an amazing candidate. Do you have time to chat today or tomorrow?

Please let me know and I'm looking forward to talking to you.

And of course, Roll Tide!

Best,

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Eddie Woodhouse
Subject: RE: phone call
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:11:15 PM

Good afternoon Eddie,

I don't think that will be necessary at this time. I've pinged Peggy again to reach out to you, hopefully she does in the next few days.

As I said yesterday, do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

Best,

Thor

From: Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:08 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: phone call

Thor:

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(b) (6) [redacted]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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> Absolutely!
>
> Looking forward to it.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2020 7:25:19 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: phone call

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-eddie

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Please let me know and I'm looking forward to talking to you.

And of course, Roll Tide!

Best,

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Eddie Woodhouse
Subject: RE: Thor! Eddie Woodhouse inquiry on USDA new openings/ positions (b) (6)
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 12:49:52 PM

Hey Eddie,

Sorry for the tardy responses, things get lost in the myriad of emails I receive every day.

Unfortunately, as of now, we don't have any positions available here that would befit your qualifications, but if something comes up that you'd be a good fit for, you'll be the first person I call.

Best,

Thor

From: Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 11:30 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Thor! Eddie Woodhouse inquiry on USDA new openings/ positions (b) (6)

Thor:

Just circling back on your thoughts concerning openings you want to fill.

Any wisdom?

Appreciated.

-eddie
Eddie Woodhouse
(b) (6)

On Thursday, January 9, 2020, 05:11:58 PM UTC, Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6)> wrote:

Thor:

Knowing that 2020 brings personnel movement to Washington, I reach out to you concerning openings you now want to fill at USDA.

May we chat again concerning an update?

-eddie woodhouse
(b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Eddie Woodhouse
Subject: RE: Mr. Christianson! Lori Urban suggested I message you!
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 4:29:03 PM

Hey Eddie,

Not a problem for following up, I sent your resume to PPO so I imagine the people will reach out to you if there's something available.

As you know, things in government up here can move slowly.

Best,

Thor

From: Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2019 4:27 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Mr. Christianson! Lori Urban suggested I message you!

Thor:

An early thoughts on what WH Personnel might be doing with my credentials after our visit last week?

Feel free to temper my expectations

Appreciated!

-eddie

On Monday, November 18, 2019, 01:12:35 AM UTC, Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6) [redacted]> wrote:

Thor:

Incredibly grateful for your offer to forward my work credentials to the Office of Presidential Personnel.

Your wisdom on what my expectations should be is also appreciated!

I'll not hide my enthusiasm for seeking a political appointment and serving the Administration.

-eddie

PS: That Bama drops to #5 - with only a loss to #1 - is baffling. Saban will use that, somehow, to his advantage.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On Friday, November 15, 2019, 08:05:48 PM UTC, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <thor.christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

Sorry, I got pulled into a meeting. Will call when I'm done

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2019 3:03:02 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Mr. Christianson! Lori Urban suggested I message you!

Just called you.

When good for you, I'm at (b) (6)

-eddie

On Friday, November 15, 2019, 01:33:14 PM UTC, Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6) > wrote:

3PM confirmed

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 15, 2019, at 8:29 AM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

Absolutely, my phone number is 202-913-2032.

I'm free until 9:45 then after 2.

Thanks,

Thor

From: Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2019 4:51 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Mr. Christianson! Lori Urban suggested I message you!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Is Friday (tomorrow) workable?

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 14, 2019, at 3:27 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Absolutely, when would be a good time?
>
> Thanks!
>
> - Thor
>
> Get Outlook for iOS
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6) >
> **Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 2:43:42 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Mr. Christianson! Lori Urban suggested I message you!
>
> Mr. Christianson:
>
> Your fellow appointee, Lori Urban, stated she forwarded my work and political credentials concerning positions the White House wants to fill at USDA.
>
> I have appointee experience, having worked directly for an Agency Secretary.
>
> May we speak briefly?
>
> Congratulations on becoming the WH Liaison!
>
> Appreciated!
>
> -eddie

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Eddie Woodhouse

(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Eddie Woodhouse
Subject: RE: Mr. Christianson! Lori Urban suggested I message you!
Date: Friday, November 15, 2019 8:32:37 AM

Let's do 3pm.

Looking forward to it.

- Thor

From: Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2019 8:32 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Mr. Christianson! Lori Urban suggested I message you!

Is 2;30PM/ 3PM workable?

Appreciated!

-Eddie

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 15, 2019, at 8:29 AM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Absolutely, my phone number is 202-913-2032.
>
> I'm free until 9:45 then after 2.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Thor
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6) [redacted]>
> **Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 4:51 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Mr. Christianson! Lori Urban suggested I message you!
>
> Is Friday (tomorrow) workable?
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Nov 14, 2019, at 3:27 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Absolutely, when would be a good time?

Thanks!

- Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Eddie Woodhouse <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2019 2:43:42 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Mr. Christianson! Lori Urban suggested I message you!

Mr. Christianson:

Your fellow appointee, Lori Urban, stated she forwarded my work and political credentials concerning positions the White House wants to fill at USDA.

I have appointee experience, having worked directly for an Agency Secretary.

May we speak briefly?

Congratulations on becoming the WH Liaison!

Appreciated!

-eddie

Eddie Woodhouse
(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: (b) (6) Resume for when you get bored
Date: Friday, January 17, 2020 5:06:12 PM
Attachments: (b) (6) Resume.docx Attachment withheld under FOIA Ex. 6

Attached.

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@american.edu>
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 3:47 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: (b) (6) Resume for when you get bored

Thank you!

Sincerely,
(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@american.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 9:52:26 AM
To: thor christianson <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: (b) (6) Resume for when you get bored

This is what the prompt from the application states:

Please upload a current resume. A professional resume format is recommended.

If you get bored during the day and want to let me know what a professional resume format looks like

Love,

(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Thursday, March 12, 2020 8:01:35 AM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
Updated Research Questionnaire final.pdf

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

I'm going to go ahead and send you these bad boys.

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Garrett Bess
Subject: RE: Garrett Bess introduction
Date: Monday, December 16, 2019 4:49:56 PM

9:30am Thursday works with me. I'll head over to your office.

I'm looking forward to it.

Thanks!

From: Garrett Bess <garrett.bess@heritageforamerica.org>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2019 2:17 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Garrett Bess introduction

Happy to meet somewhere, but my office works well if that is good for you. 9:30AM on Thursday?

Garrett Bess
Director of Government Relations
Heritage Action for America
202.548.5280 | heritageaction.com

On Mon, Dec 16, 2019 at 12:15 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> That's perfect, I'm free all morning. What time works best for you? Do you want me to come to your office?
>
> **From:** Garrett Bess <garrett.bess@heritageforamerica.org>
> **Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2019 12:12 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Garrett Bess introduction
>
> Happy to. How about Thursday morning?
>
> **Garrett Bess**
> Director of Government Relations
> Heritage Action for America
> 202.548.5280 | heritageaction.com
>
> On Mon, Dec 16, 2019 at 8:16 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> > Good morning Garrett,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

It's great to meet you as well. Are you by chance available this week one morning to get coffee and get acquainted? I'm free every morning this week except for Friday and today.

Looking forward to meeting you!

Best,

Thor

From: Garrett Bess <garrett.bess@heritageforamerica.org>
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2019 12:11 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Garrett Bess introduction

Thank you, Evan. Dropping you to bcc.

Thor, pleasure to meet you. Always happy to help in any way I can with either personnel or policy. Feel free to ping me whenever or we can circle up and grab coffee at some point.

Garrett

Garrett Bess
Director of Government Relations
Heritage Action for America
202.548.5280 | heritageaction.com

On Thu, Dec 12, 2019 at 3:07 PM Lee, Evan - OSEC, Washington, DC <evan.lee@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hi Thor – As I mentioned yesterday, I wanted to introduce you to Garrett Bess. Garrett and I worked together with in a congressional office for many years before he departed the Hill to join Heritage Action as Director of Government Relations. Garrett and his colleagues always know folks in their organization or around the Hill looking for opportunities in the Administration, so I thought it'd be a good connection to make as you try to build up your resume bank.
>
> I'll let you two talk.
>
> Thanks!
>
> **Evan B. Lee**
>
> Chief of Staff
> Office of Congressional Relations

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Times
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 8:15:28 AM

Thursday at 5 works!

See you then!

- Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 5:55 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Times

Hi Thor,

I hope you've had a nice long weekend! Would 5pm Thursday still work?

Best,
(b) (6)

On Fri, Jan 17, 2020 at 11:40 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Do any of these times work?
>
> - Tues 1-3, 4-5:30
> - Wed 2-5:30
> - Thurs 4-5:30
> - Fri 1-3
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2020 10:35 AM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Times
>
> Thanks so much! Have a great weekend.
>
> On Fri, Jan 17, 2020 at 7:59 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> > Hi (b) (6),

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Unfortunately, I've already had what you had but I managed to get it the first full week post New Years, I feel your pain. Take solace in the fact that this too shall pass.

Of course we can reschedule! I'll chat with Courtney and I'll send you some times that work for her and we'll figure it out.

Feel better!

Best,

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 7:49:05 AM

To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Times

Hi Thor,

Unfortunately, (b) (6). Since it's difficult for me to talk, could we reschedule for sometime next week?

Apologies for moving the meeting again, and I'm still very much interested in an opportunity at USDA. Please pass my apologies along to Courtney as well.

Thank you for being understanding, and I hope you don't catch what's going around!

Best,
(b) (6)

On Mon, Jan 13, 2020 at 9:17 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

> There's definitely something going around. Thank you for being flexible!
>
> On Mon, Jan 13, 2020 at 5:08 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> > Hi (b) (6),
> >
> > I'm sorry (b) (6), lots of folks here have been sick recently.

I spoke with Courtney and that time works with her.

I hope you feel better!

Best,

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 3:46 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Times

Hi Thor,

Unfortunately (b) (6), and I don't want to have to cancel on you last minute tomorrow if (b) (6), so I thought it'd be best to reschedule now.

Is 1/17 at 5pm still available?

Thank you!

(b) (6)

On Thu, Jan 9, 2020 at 6:43 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Absolutely! I'll meet you at security and we'll walk to Courtney's office.
>
> Get Outlook for iOS

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 5:27:41 PM

To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Times

Great, thank you! I'll plan to come to your office again, let me know if i should go elsewhere.

On Thu, Jan 9, 2020 at 4:53 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Absolutely! I'll put it down in my calendar. You'll be meeting with me and Courtney Knupp who is the chief of staff for Research, Education, and Economics.
>
> Looking forward to it!
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 4:51 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Times
>
> Can we do 5pm on the 15th?
>
> Thank you!
>
> (b) (6)
>
> On Thu, Jan 9, 2020 at 4:05 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> > Do any of these times work with you?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

- 1/14 3-5
- 1/15 11-12, 3:30-5
- 1/16 10:30-1
- 1/17 9-1, 3-5

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

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

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(b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: (b) (6) : USDA In-Person Interview, Friday, November 8th 2019 at 9:00am EST (East Coast Time).
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 10:59:06 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Absolutely! We're in the process of narrowing down a list for iga and I'll keep you updated when I know more.

Have fun on your advance trip!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 10:56:09 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: (b) (6) : USDA In-Person Interview, Friday, November 8th 2019 at 9:00am EST (East Coast Time).

Hi Thor,

I wanted to let you know that tomorrow I will be heading out of the country for an Advance trip for the President. I'll be out of the country for two weeks, but please feel free to reach out to me via email while I am traveling.

I am still very interested in pursuing a position at USDA, in particular the Deputy Director of IGA that we discussed at our meeting.

Please let me know if you need anything from me, I'll be available.

Best,
(b) (6)

On Fri, Nov 8, 2019 at 7:47 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> (b) (6),
>
> Thank you for coming and especially on such short notice, I enjoyed our conversation.
>
> I've passed your resume along to a couple of offices that I think you'd thrive in.
>
> I'll keep you updated!
>
> Have a great long weekend!
>
> Roll tide!
>
> - Thor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 6:02:49 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Cc: Mann, LeTonya OSEC/WHL, Washington, DC <letonya.mann@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: (b) (6) : USDA In-Person Interview, Friday, November 8th 2019 at 9:00am EST (East Coast Time).

Thor,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today. I really appreciate you giving me an overview of USDA, the available positions, and the hiring process.

Please let me know if you need any additional information from me, and enjoy the football game!

LeTonya- thank you for being such a nice host and tour guide!

I hope to speak to you both soon.

Best,
(b) (6)

On Thu, Nov 7, 2019 at 11:01 AM Mann, LeTonya OSEC/WHL, Washington, DC <letonya.mann@usda.gov> wrote:

> Great Morning (b) (6) –
>
> You are confirmed for an In-person Interview on **Friday, November 8th, 2019 at 9:00am EST (East Coast Time)**.
>
> On **Friday, November 8th 2019** you should report to the **USDA's Whitten Building**, at 1400 Independence Ave, SW. You should enter through the **Jefferson Drive entrance**, located on the National Mall (directly across from the Smithsonian Museum of American History).
>
> a. The nearest Metro stop is Smithsonian Station on the Blue, Orange, and Silver lines

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

b. The following link is a map which shows you exactly where the Jefferson Drive entrance to the Whitten Building is located: Whitten Building

c. When you arrive, let the Security Guards know that you have a meeting scheduled in the **White House Liaison's Office** and have them call **202-720-2406**.

The interviewer will include:

- Thor Christianson, White House Liaison, USDA

Please do not hesitate to call or email with any questions. We look forward to meeting you on **Friday, November 8th, 2019 at 9:00am EST (East Coast Time)**

Thank You,

LeTonya B. Mann
Program Analyst – White House Liaison Office
Office of the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-205-2258
Cell: (b) (6)

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

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Potential Job
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2020 11:23:32 AM
Attachments: NIFA Fact Sheet 2019.pdf

Hey (b) (6),

Hope you had a great break!.

I got your previous email and I've been asking around and I've found a position that you'd be a good fit for, it's for a NIFA policy advisor. I've attached some facts about NIFA and if you're free sometime today, give me a call and we can talk about it in more detail. 202-913-3062

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

2020-OSEC-02620-F

USDA United States Department of Agriculture | National Institute of Food and Agriculture | www.nifa.usda.gov @USDA_NIFA

NIFA

FACTSHEET

INVESTING IN SCIENCE | SECURING OUR FUTURE

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(NIFA) is the extramural science-funding agency within USDA's Research, Education, and Economics mission area. NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education, and extension to help solve national challenges in agriculture, food, the environment, and communities. Working with scientists and researchers around the country, NIFA makes vital contributions to science policy decision-making, often in collaboration with other Federal agencies.

AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO SCIENCE AT NIFA

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AT NIFA

NIFA integrates food and agricultural science through research, education, and extension to ensure our scientific discoveries make their way into our communities, farms, and classrooms.

RESEARCH provides solutions to complex issues that face our nation and the world.

EDUCATION strengthens schools and universities to train the next generation of scientists, educators, producers, and citizens.

EXTENSION takes knowledge gained through research and education to the people who need it most.

PRIORITY SCIENCE AREAS

AGROCLIMATE SCIENCE

Sustainable agriculture and forestry-based strategies support thriving food and fiber systems and communities that are resilient to climate variability and environmental change.

BIOECONOMY-BIOENGERY-BIOPRODUCTS

A robust bioeconomy enhances communities, job growth, agricultural production, and contributes to U.S. competitiveness.

EDUCATION AND MULTICULTURAL ALLIANCES

Education and workforce development programs empower science, technology, engineering, and mathematics students with the knowledge and skills they'll need to address challenges and to capitalize on future opportunities in the global agriculture industry.

ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS

Conserving natural resources and improving ecosystem services promotes resilience and agroecosystem sustainability.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Advancing socio-economic potential and empowering people ensures the well-being of the agricultural workforce, their families, and the communities they serve.

FOOD SAFETY

Food safety programs improve the safety and quality of the U.S. food supply for a healthy population and better quality of life.

HUMAN NUTRITION

Improving the quality, diversity, and access to nutritious foods in the U.S. food supply, results in better quality of life and overall wellbeing.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

NIFA supports programs that improve our nation's food security through increased production efficiencies and profitability while enhancing environmental stewardship and quality of life.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Positive youth development science prepares the nation's youth with the 21st century skills they'll need to be successful, healthy, and productive members of society.

LEADERSHIP

J. Scott Angle, *Director*

ENGAGE

Web: www.nifa.usda.gov
Twitter: @USDA_NIFA
LinkedIn: USDA-NIFA
#NIFAImpacts

MISSION

Invest in and advance agricultural research, education, and extension to solve societal challenges.

VISION

Catalyze transformative discoveries, education, and engagement to address agricultural challenges.

IMPACTS

To learn more about NIFA's impact on agricultural science (searchable by state or keyword), visit www.nifa.usda.gov/impacts.

BUDGET

Total FY19	$1,702,624,000
Research and Education	937,632,000
Extension	505,692,000
Integrated	38,000,000
Mandatory and Endowment	216,300,000

PARTNER LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS

Total	113
1862 Land-Grant Universities	57
1890 Land-Grant Universities	19
1994 Land-Grant Universities	37

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. | Mail Code

MULTI-USDA-20-0298-A-000114 000114

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Grady Lowman
Subject: RE: Resume
Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 10:13:56 AM

Thanks man, I'll see what I can do. Is he specifically interested in working at USDA?

From: Grady Lowman <glowman@astorweiss.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 10:11 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Resume

Thor,

A resume for (b) (6) is attached. He comes highly recommended by my paralegal and is willing to relocate to DC. (b) (6) has prior military service and recently completed his masters degree.

Best,

Grady A. Lowman, Esquire
Astor Weiss Kaplan & Mandel, LLP
The Bellevue
200 South Broad Street, Suite 600
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215.790.0100
215.790.0509 (Fax)
Glowman@astorweiss.com
https://astorweiss.com

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Forms
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 9:25:15 AM

Thanks man, can you also give me a call at sometime when you're free?

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 9:24 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Forms

Thor,

Apologies for missing your call yesterday evening. I will send back the completed forms as soon as possible.

Best,

(b) (6)

On Mon, Nov 18, 2019 at 5:52 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hey (b) (6),
>
> Could you please fill out these forms and return them to me ASAP?
>
> Thanks,
>
> Thor
>
> 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.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Monday, November 18, 2019 5:52:09 PM
Attachments: Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf
13 Point Form.docx

Hey (b) (6),

Could you please fill out these forms and return them to me ASAP?

Thanks,

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: (b) (6) Meeting
Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 10:59:39 AM

Absolutely, not a problem. Could you send me a copy of your resume at some point today? Just so I can review it before you get here.

Thanks,

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 7:58 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: (b) (6) Meeting

Thor,

Thursday at 8:30 works well for me. Thanks again for reaching out. I'm looking forward to meeting with you.

Best,

(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 5, 2019, at 7:29 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> Hey (b) (6),
>
> Thanks for reaching out.
>
> Want to do Thursday at 8:30?
>
> Best,
>
> Thor
>
> Get Outlook for iOS
>
> ---
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 7:02:49 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: (b) (6) Meeting

Mr. Christianson,

Thank you for reaching out today. I would love to sit down and talk about opportunities at USDA this week.

I am available on both Thursday and Friday from 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, and anytime after 5:00 PM.

Please let me know what works best for you. In the meantime, I would be happy to answer any additional questions.

Best,

(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Forms
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 4:12:36 PM

Merci!

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 4:11 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Forms

I exported it to a PDF. It should open now. Apologies.

(b) (6)

On Wed, Jan 22, 2020 at 3:55 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Could you resend the 13 point form please? It won't open.
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:52 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Forms
>
> Hi Thor,
>
> Please find the completed forms attached. Let me know if these are satisfactory or if I need to make any changes or additions.
>
> Best,
> (b) (6)
>
> On Tue, Jan 21, 2020 at 5:03 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:
>
> > Likewise Thor. Thank you for having me in today. I'll get those forms over to you ASAP.
> >
> > Best,
> > (b) (6)
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Jan 21, 2020, at 16:49, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hey (b) (6),

It was great chatting with you today!

Please fill out the attached forms and send back to me asap.

Thanks!

Thor

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<13 Point Form.docx>
<Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf>
<PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 4:49:32 PM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Hey (b) (6),

It was great chatting with you today!

Please fill out the attached forms and send back to me asap.

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: (b) (6) Resume
Date: Thursday, March 5, 2020 10:53:25 AM

Thanks!

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 10:19 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: (b) (6) Resume

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Updates
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 11:19:16 AM

Unfortunately, not yet. There's a pretty hefty backlog in vetting, I'll let you know when I know something.

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Updates

Good morning Mr. Christianson,

Any updates on the vetting process forms I sent you last week? Thanks

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Follow up
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 2:57:40 PM

Thanks!

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 2:52 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow up

Mr. Christianson,

Here are those forms, let me know if you need anything else. Thanks.

On Tue, Jan 28, 2020 at 1:05 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hey (b) (6),
>
> Sorry, your email got lost in the enormous amount of emails I get everyday, I apologize about that. Let me send you some forms, could you please fill these out and send them back to me asap? We'll get you vetted then we can have more in depth conversations.
>
> Thanks!
>
> thor
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 2:03 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Follow up
>
> Mr. Christianson,
>
> Just wanted to make sure you saw my last email, I didnt realize I sent it over the weekend. Thanks.
>
> On Sat, Jan 25, 2020, 7:25 AM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:
>
> > Mr. Christianson,
> >
> > I emailed LeTonya Mann a few days ago about what the next steps were for a possible interview and have not heard back. Do you have any insight on the possible timeline? Thanks.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Follow up
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 2:05:55 PM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf
Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Hey (b) (6),

Sorry, your email got lost in the enormous amount of emails I get everyday, I apologize about that. Let me send you some forms, could you please fill these out and send them back to me asap? We'll get you vetted then we can have more in depth conversations.

Thanks!

thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 2:03 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow up

Mr. Christianson,

Just wanted to make sure you saw my last email, I didnt realize I sent it over the weekend. Thanks.

On Sat, Jan 25, 2020, 7:25 AM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

> Mr. Christianson,
>
> I emailed LeTonya Mann a few days ago about what the next steps were for a possible interview and have not heard back. Do you have any insight on the possible timeline? Thanks.

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: writing test
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 4:50:47 PM

Great! Thanks!

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 4:39 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: writing test

Mr. Christianson,

Attached are my two responses. Let me know if there is anything else I can do for you, and what the next step of the application process is.

Thanks and hope to hear from you soon.

On Wed, Jan 15, 2020 at 2:18 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> A response to the two letters as if you were responding on behalf of the secretary
>
> Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 3:18:10 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: writing test

Mr. Christianson,

You are wanting a summary of the letter, correct?

On Wed, Jan 15, 2020 at 2:15 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Please send back to me in two hours. Thanks!
>
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: writing test
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 3:15:05 PM
Attachments: Scan.pdf Attachment is a duplicate of the Attachment on pg. 26

Please send back to me in two hours. Thanks!

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Position at USDA
Date: Monday, January 13, 2020 9:06:18 AM

Good morning Mr. (b) (6),

Thank you for sending the documents so quickly and I look forward to meeting you in the next few days.

Thanks again!

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@cato.org>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 5:24 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Position at USDA

Also, please note that I am NOT (b) (6) is a real thing in the legal world. ;-)

(b) (6)

On Jan 10, 2020, at 5:18 PM, (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

Thor,

Here you go. I keep detailed tracking documents on my output (CV) and media appearances (Media & Citations), so have attached those documents and referred to them in the Research Questionnaire. I also attach my resume and a short document I put together of my administration-related written commentary from the last three years. Also, since the forms don't ask this after asking for birthplace, I'm a (b) (6)

Have a good weekend,
(b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT



Cato Supreme Court Review: http://www.cato.org/supreme-court-review

Watch our 18th Annual Constitution Day Conference, Sept. 17, 2019:
https://www.cato.org/events/18th-annual-constitution-day

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 4:06 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Position at USDA

(b) (6) ,

My name is Thor Christianson and I am the White House Liaison here at USDA.

I received your information from Stephen Vaden and he mentioned your interest in the open position of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights here at USDA. As we move through this process, could you please fill out the attached forms and return to me ASAP? These are vetting documents that will be sent to the Presidential Personnel Office in the White House.

Thank you very much and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Have a great weekend.

Best,

Thor Christianson

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.
<Resume 1-7-20.pdf>
<Admin-Related Commentary.pdf>
<13 Point Form - (b) (6).docx>
<CV December 2019.pdf>
<Media & Citations December 2019.pdf>
<Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet - (b) (6).pdf>
<PPO Research Questionnaire - (b) (6).pdf>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Position at USDA
Date: Friday, January 10, 2020 4:06:15 PM
Attachments: PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
13 Point Form.docx

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Mr. (b) (6),

My name is Thor Christianson and I am the White House Liaison here at USDA.

I received your information from Stephen Vaden and he mentioned your interest in the open position of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights here at USDA. As we move through this process, could you please fill out the attached forms and return to me ASAP? These are vetting documents that will be sent to the Presidential Personnel Office in the White House.

Thank you very much and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Have a great weekend.

Best,

Thor Christianson

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Meeting
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 8:27:08 AM

Hey (b) (6)

Not a problem! Since you've sent the docs over before, they're going to just do a quick update and it shouldn't take too long.

After you pass your vet, maybe you could come back in and we can talk about things more specifically.

Thanks!

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 5:45 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting

Hi Thor,

So sorry for the delay in getting these documents back to you. That said, I greatly appreciate your continued interest in my candidacy. Attached you will find the completed documents, along with my updated resume. Please let me know if you need any other information.

I also wanted to flag for you that I previously submitted similar documents to DHS a few months ago, in the event that is raised by PPO.

Thank you again for your patience and please do let me know if you need anything else.

Best,
(b) (6)

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 2:31 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Meeting

Hey (b) (6),

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly and I apologize for the tardy response, things have been a tad hectic here today as you can imagine.

So the next step we need to do is get a quick political vet. I'm attaching three documents. Please fill them out ASAP and also send me an updated resume.

After vetting is complete, we'll bring you in for another meeting with the mission area chief you'd be working with.

Thanks again.

Best,
Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 9:00 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting

Thor,

Thank you for your time yesterday to discuss my interest in working for USDA. It was a pleasure meeting you in person and learning more about the operation.

Working at USDA sounds like an incredible opportunity that is simultanesouly challenging and rewarding. Specifically, the potential opportunity at Rural Development is of considerable interest to me. If possible, I would like to discuss potential next steps with you.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information. Hope you're having a nice week.

Best,
(b) (6)

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 4:13 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Meeting

Perfect, see you then!

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 4:08 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting

Thor,

Great hearing from you. I hope you had an enjoyable and restful Thanksgiving.

I am confirming our meeting tomorrow at 10:00AM. Looking forward to meeting you in person.

Best,
(b) (6)

> On Dec 2, 2019, at 2:32 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> Good afternoon,
>
> I was just following up about our meeting tomorrow morning scheduled for 10.
>
> When you come to the building, enter from the Jefferson drive side (Smithsonian is the closest metro station) and give me a call once you get through security. My number is 202-913-3062.
>
> See you tomorrow!
>
> - Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) @my.okcu.edu
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 2:40:42 PM
Attachments: Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf
13 Point Form.docx

Hey (b) (6),

I don't think I've sent these yet.

Please fill these out ASAP and also send me an updated resume.

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Jeanette Whitener
Subject: RE: Next Steps
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2020 3:46:48 PM

Per HR:

This weekend we get paid for pay period 26, pay period 01 will have her final week on it which is this week, the pay period after which is pay period 02 we will pay her leave out.

From: Jeanette Whitener <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 1:57 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Cc: Whitener, Jeanette - OES, Washington, DC <Jeanette.Whitener@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Next Steps

Good afternoon Thor -

Just as an update, Martin LeFrancois instructed me to turn over my PIV card to the security officer when I badge out tomorrow.

I have spoken with ethics and I plan to work on the OGE 278 filing tomorrow before I leave.

I will leave my phone and computer on my desk tomorrow unless you have other instructions.

Additionally, I left all papers in the bottom left drawer of my desk. I did not shred or discard anything. If you would like me to do so, please let me know. Otherwise I will leave them there.

Who can I talk with in HR regarding a final paycheck? I will likely be moving to another federal position so I would like to request that when this pay period ends on Friday, January 17 that all final payments from USDA be included on that check.

Thank you
Jeanette

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 8, 2020, at 12:20 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hi Jeanette,
>
> Could you please reach out to Stuart Bender from ethics at 202-720-2251 and Martin LeFrancois from security at 202-260-8200 today to schedule times to chat with them? Otherwise, I think we can still plan for you to come in Friday to drop all your stuff (PIV, Parking pass…etc).

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

If I need anything else I'll make sure to reach out.

Thanks and please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6) @vols.utk.edu
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2020 4:23:57 PM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Hi (b) (6),

It was nice meeting you today!

Please fill out these forms and get them back to me asap.

Have a great evening!

Best,

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: John Clarke
Subject: Re: Trying work email
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 5:58:51 PM

According to my Uber, I'll be there in 5 mins. I'll meet you at the bar

Get Outlook for iOS

From: John Clarke <jclarke@quartetoffice.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 5:46:07 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Trying work email

Supposed to be there for 1830 but I can be a bit late. Jnc

> On Nov 12, 2019, at 17:32, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> I'm about to leave, what time do you need to be at your next event? I'll shoot you an email when I get close to your hotel.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: John Clarke <jclarke@quartetoffice.org>
> Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 4:43 PM
> To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> Subject: Re: Trying work email
>
> Great. Drop me a line when you arrive!
>
>> On Nov 12, 2019, at 16:25, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>>
>> Perfect, I have a meeting at 4:45 and hopefully it's not long. Depending on when I get out, it should take me about 15-20 mins to get there.
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: John Clarke <jclarke@quartetoffice.org>
>> Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 4:23 PM
>> To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
>> Subject: Re: Trying work email
>>
>> Any time after 1700 is good for me. Jnc
>>
>>>> On Nov 12, 2019, at 16:02, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>>>
>>> That sounds good, what hotel are you staying at?
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: John Clarke <jclarke@quartetoffice.org>
>>> Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 3:59 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

>>> To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
>>> Subject: Re: Trying work email
>>>
>>> Hi Matt. May be easiest for me to meet around the hotel as I have another work drink afterwards. Jnc
>>>
>>>>> On Nov 12, 2019, at 11:45, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Finally something worked.
>>>>
>>>> Yes, I'm free around then, where do you want to meet up? My office is right by the Trump hotel if you're interested in trying that out. But I'm open to anything.
>>>>
>>>> -----Original Message-----
>>>> From: John Clarke <jclarke@quartetoffice.org>
>>>> Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 11:44 AM
>>>> To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
>>>> Subject: Trying work email
>>>>
>>>> Hi Matt. Free early evening today? 1730 or so? Jnc
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> 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.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Forms
Date: Friday, December 13, 2019 2:44:09 PM

Thanks!

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2019 2:37 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Forms

Thor,

Attached are the three documents.

Thanks for reaching out and I look forward to talking with you more.

(b) (6)

On Fri, Dec 13, 2019 at 2:09 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Please fill out the attached forms ASAP and send them back to me.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Thor
>
> 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.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Friday, December 13, 2019 2:09:53 PM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Please fill out the attached forms ASAP and send them back to me.

Thanks,

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Meeting Tomorrow Morning
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2019 11:57:57 AM

Hey (b) (6) ,

Not a problem! 10 works for me.

Thanks for letting me know and I'll see you tomorrow morning.

Best,

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2019 11:55:13 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting Tomorrow Morning

Thor,

Thank you so much for reaching out. I've just landed in DC and had something come up with the Governor at 8:30 now. Is there any way we can do 10? Apologies on the last minute adjustment.

Best,

(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 14, 2019, at 8:27 AM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> Good morning (b) (6) ,
>
> It was nice chatting with you last night.
>
> Just to confirm our appointment tomorrow morning at 8:30.
>
> My office is at the Whitten building and the entrance is on Jefferson drive. If you are taking the metro, the closest metro stop is Smithsonian on the blue line and when you get off, go towards Jefferson drive.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

If you are taking an Uber, if you say USDA on Jefferson drive, they'll take you right there.

Once you are there, go through the front door, go through security and I'll meet you at the security desk.

If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to call me, 202-913-3062.

Thanks and I'll see you tomorrow!

Best,

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: PPO Paperwork
Date: Monday, December 16, 2019 9:50:53 AM
Attachments: Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf
13 Point Form.docx

Hey (b) (6),

I've attached the PPO forms. If you could send them back to me asap, we can get the preliminary process started.

Thanks and I'll see you Wednesday!

Best,

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: PPO Paperwork
Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2019 7:22:04 AM

Good morning (b) (6),

Do you mind coming to the department to chat? Or I can come to your office, whatever is most convenient for you.

Looking forward to it!

Best,

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2019 7:19:44 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: PPO Paperwork

Hi Thor,

Quick question - did we decide where I'm meeting you at 11:30 this morning? I don't recall having discussed a location, so I just wanted to circle back.

Thanks in advance, and look forward to seeing you later this morning!

(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 16, 2019, at 9:50 AM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hey (b) (6),
>
> I've attached the PPO forms. If you could send them back to me asap, we can get the preliminary process started.
>
> Thanks and I'll see you Wednesday!
>
> Best,
>
> Thor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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<Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf>

<PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf>

<13 Point Form.docx>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Laney Copeland
Subject: Re: Thank you!
Date: Friday, January 17, 2020 6:35:13 PM

Laney,

Absolutely, it was great discussing the NIFA position with you yesterday. We'll be in touch shortly.

Have a great weekend and stay warm!

Best,

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Laney Copeland <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 11:18:09 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Thank you!

Hi Thor,

Thank you for arranging the meeting with Courtney yesterday. I appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the position with NIFA, and I thank you for considering me. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions for me.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Have a great weekend!

Laney Copeland
c. (b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Laney Copeland
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2020 7:08:07 PM

Laney,

These are great! Thanks!

- Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Laney Copeland <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 7:03:18 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Forms

Hi Thor,

You'll find the completed documents attached. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!

-Laney
c. (b) (6)

On Thu, Jan 16, 2020 at 4:39 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hi Laney,
>
> It was great seeing you again, I enjoyed our discussion.
>
> Could you please fill out the attached paperwork and send it back to me asap?
>
> Thanks!
>
> Thor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Laney Copeland
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2020 4:39:50 PM
Attachments: PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
13 Point Form.docx

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Hi Laney,

It was great seeing you again, I enjoyed our discussion.

Could you please fill out the attached paperwork and send it back to me asap?

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Laney Copeland
Subject: RE: Meeting
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 9:32:08 AM

Good morning Laney,

Thanks for you speedy reply! I've booked your time; see you then!

Best,

Thor

From: Laney Copeland <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 9:24 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting

Hi Thor,

Thanks for the email. I'm available on Thursday at 2:30pm. I appreciate your assistance in arranging this meeting, and I look forward to receiving confirmation.

Thanks!

Laney
c. (b) (6)

On Mon, Jan 13, 2020 at 6:02 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hi Laney,
>
> I chatted with Courtney and she wanted me to try to get something on the books this week.
>
> Do any of the following times work for you:
>
> Thursday: 10-11, 12-1, 2:30-3:30, 5:00
> Friday 9-11, 1-5
>
> Thanks!
>
> Thor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Lindel Barber
Subject: Re: Spreadsheet for WAVES
Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 7:00:02 PM

Sorry to bother you but I really need that information so I can submit it.

- Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Lindel Barber <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 5:31:35 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Spreadsheet for WAVES

I can get them to you in 30

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 17, 2019, at 2:51 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> Hi Lindel,
>
> Could you please send it to me by 4:30-5? I'm trying to submit them this evening.
>
> Thanks!
>
> - Thor
>
> Get Outlook for iOS
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Lindel Waclawski <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2019 1:51:49 PM
> **To:** Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
> **Cc:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Re: Spreadsheet for WAVES
>
> Thank you! i will get this back to you by this evening!
>
> On Tue, Dec 17, 2019 at 11:58 AM Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> > Lindel,
> >
> > Can you fill out the attached spreadsheet and send it back to Thor?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 9:44:00 AM
To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Spreadsheet for WAVES

Attached.

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson Thor - OSEC Washington DC
To: Lindel Wacla s i
Subject: Re: Spreadsheet for WAVES
Date: Tuesday December 17 2019 7:50:45 PM

Thanks! It s all submitted!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Lindel Waclawski <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday December 17 2019 7 19 40 PM
To: Christianson Thor - OSEC Washington DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re Spreadsheet for WAVES

I apologize for the delay.

Thank you for all of your help!

Lindel

On Tue, Dec 17, 2019 at 7 19 PM Lindel Waclawski <(b) (6)> wrote

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date of Birth	Social Security Number	U.S. Citizen?	Country of Birth	Gender	City of Residence	State of Residence
(b) (6)									

On Tue, Dec 17, 2019 at 7 00 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote

Sorry to bother you but I really need that information so I can submit it.

- Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Lindel Barber <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday December 17 2019 5 31 35 PM
To: Christianson Thor - OSEC Washington DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re Spreadsheet for WAVES

I can get them to you in 30

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 17, 2019, at 2 51 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote

Hi Lindel,

Could you please send it to me by 4 30-5? I m trying to submit them this evening.

Thanks!

- Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Lindel Waclawsk (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday December 17 2019 1 51 49 PM
To: Young Joby - OSEC Washington DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Cc: Christianson Thor - OSEC Washington DC <Thor Christianson@usda gov>
Subject: Re Re Spreadsheet for WAVES

Thank you! i will get this back to you by this evening!

On Tue, Dec 17, 2019 at 11 58 AM Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby young@usda gov> wrote

Lindel,

Can you fill out the attached spreadsheet and send it back to Thor?

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

From: Christianson Thor - OSEC Washington DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday December 17 2019 9 44 00 AM
To: Young Joby - OSEC Washington DC <joby.young@usda.gov>
Subject: Re Spreadsheet for WAVES

Attached.

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6); McKinney, Ted - OSEC, Washington, DC; Gilson, Joseph - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: White House Tour - TOMORROW
Date: Thursday, December 19, 2019 2:22:57 PM

Get Outlook for iOS

From: White House Tours - No Reply <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2019 11:34:13 AM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>; Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: White House Tour - TOMORROW

Hello,

Your self-guided holiday open house of the White House for the **USDA - 11 guest slots** group, (CS-2528607), for **8** of the **8** requested guests is tomorrow at **11:30 AM.**

What's Next?

Confirm Responses	Print Boarding Pass
Guest List	Boarding Pass

What Guests Must Bring With Them

A Valid Government-Issued Photo ID

Drivers Licenses, Military IDs, Green Cards, and Passports are all valid forms of identification. US Citizens who are age 17 and under do not need a government-issued ID.

Foreign Passport

All foreign nationals must present a passport, regardless of age.

RSVP Information Must Match Your ID

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

All security information submitted to the White House using the RSVP link must match the valid, government-issued photo ID presented to US Secret Service on the day of your tour.

Printed Boarding Pass

Once your guests have cleared, you will receive an email with their tour boarding pass attached. If you are booking this tour on behalf of others, you must send this boarding pass to your guests. All guests are required to present the boarding pass on the day of their tour.

Arrival Instructions

Arrive 15 Minutes Before Scheduled Tour Time

This will help facilitate check in and clearing security.

Enter the White House Complex at the intersection of 15th St NW and Alexander Hamilton Place NW

Friendly Reminders

Dress for the weather

Guests will be standing outside before their tour.

Eat a snack and hydrate prior to arrival

Guests are prohibited from bringing outside food and drink into the White House.

There are no restrooms available inside the White House

Restrooms are located at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion and the White House Visitor Center.

Only approved guests are permitted on tours

Unapproved additions and/or substitutions to your guest

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

list are strictly prohibited and will be turned away by US Secret Service.

Tours are self-guided

Secret Service Officers are posted throughout the White House to provide historical information, all you have to do is ask!

What to leave at home

Certain items are prohibited. Guests should not bring these items with them as there is nowhere to store belongings and US Secret Service will confiscate certain materials and items.

On behalf of President and Mrs. Trump, we look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

Sincerely,

White House Visitors Office

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Thursday, October 31, 2019 10:18:42 AM
Attachments: PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
13 Point Form.docx

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Hi (b) (6),

Per our conversation, could you please fill out these forms and send them back to me along with another copy of your resume?

Thank you very much.

Best,

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Quick Chat
Date: Thursday, October 31, 2019 7:57:19 AM

Good morning (b) (6),

Shawna connected us yesterday but I wanted to reach about the next steps in this process, are you free around 9:30 for a quick phone call?

Thanks!

Best,

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Form
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 8:38:28 AM
Attachments: Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf Attachment is a duplicate of an Attachment on pg. 6

Attached.

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Entry Level Position
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 4:16:09 PM

Give me a call tomorrow morning at 10am est. Sorry for going all over the place. 202-913-3062

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 9:29 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Entry Level Position

Dear Mr. Christianson,

I am available this week to chat. Please let me know what time would be convenient for us to talk. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
(b) (6)

On Jan 30, 2020, at 2:22 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

Sorry man, I hate to be all over the place here. I'll call you tomorrow at noon est.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 2:07:24 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Entry Level Position

When will you be available? I am available this afternoon and tomorrow. Thank you for your time.

On Jan 29, 2020, at 1:36 PM, Matthew Kerzee <(b) (6)> wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Yes sir. That works for me. Talk to you then. Have a great rest of your day!

On Jan 29, 2020, at 1:34 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

Sorry, I've been running around all day and I don't think we'll be able to talk today. Does tomorrow around 10 work?

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 12:26 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Entry Level Position

I'm ready whenever you are.

On Jan 29, 2020, at 8:19 AM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

I'll call you when I get out of my meeting.

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 8:59 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Entry Level Position

Yes sir sounds good with me

On Jan 29, 2020, at 7:52 AM,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

Do you want to chat now?

From: Matthew Kerzee <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 8:52 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Entry Level Position

Dear Mr. Christianson,

Please let me know what time is convenient for you. I can be available whenever you need me to be.

Sincerely,
(b) (6)

> On Jan 29, 2020, at 7:11 AM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> Good morning (b) (6),
>
> Do you want to chat tomorrow?
>
> Thanks,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thor

From: (b) (6)
<(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Entry Level Position

Dear Mr. Christianson:

I am interested in a position with your department with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I have just recently graduated Cum Laude with my B.S. in Agricultural Economics with an emphasis in Agricultural Policy from Texas A&M University. Please find my letter to you and my resume regarding same attached to this email. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your time.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Follow up—(b) (6)
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 9:06:21 AM

Good morning,

Sorry I haven't reached out in awhile, I've got you on the backburner for a few legal positions that I believe are going to be opening up soon. Once that happens, I'll give you a call and we'll chat more in detail.

- Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Follow up—(b) (6)

Hi Thor,

I am writing to see if there are any plans to move forward at all with the position you mentioned during our phone conversation and subsequent emails back in November?

Respectfully,
(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Follow up--(b) (6)
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 1:22:54 PM

Hey man,

I got it and we're in the process of figuring everything out on our end.

I'll give you an update soon!

Thanks,

Thor

From: Maxwell Anderson <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 1:19 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Follow up--(b) (6)

Hi Thor,

I am writing to follow up to make sure you received the writing samples I sent over last week.

I also am just curious about what the general timeline might be for scheduling the additional phone call you mentioned and/or an office visit?

Thank you again for reaching out last week.

Respectfully,
(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Paperwork
Date: Monday, January 6, 2020 2:00:24 PM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Mr. Mayfield,

Please fill out the attached documents and send them back to me as your earliest convenience.

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Follow Up
Date: Thursday, January 2, 2020 3:00:09 PM

Does 9-9:30 work?

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2020 2:40:04 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow Up

I'll make anytime that morning work!

On Thu, Jan 2, 2020 at 1:40 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> What is your availability the morning of the 7th?
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Wednesday, January 1, 2020 9:23 AM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Follow Up
>
> Absolutely. Happy new year!
>
> On Wed, Jan 1, 2020 at 7:51 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> > Hey (b) (6),
> >
> > Great to hear you're coming up. I'm coming back to the office tomorrow, do you mind if I follow up with you tomorrow to see if we can schedule something with the chief of staff?
> >
> > Thanks and happy New Year!
> >
> > Best,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 11:03:17 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow Up

Thor-

I hope you had a merry Christmas! I've told the folks at presidential personnel but I wanted to let you know personally that I will be in DC from January 5-7. I hope to meet with y'all. Happy new year!

(b) (6)

On Tue, Dec 10, 2019 at 12:50 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hi (b) (6),
>
> I hope you are doing well.
>
> My name is Thor Christianson and I am the White House liaison at USDA.
>
> I'm emailing you to follow up on a voicemail I left on your phone the other day.
>
> I met with Michael Burley from White House PPO the other day and he gave me your resume and said you'd be coming to DC soon. I was curious if you had time during your visit here to meet me and my chief of staff, Joby Young.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

> > Thank you very much and I look forward to hearing back from you.
>
> Best,
>
> Thor
>
> Get Outlook for iOS
>
> 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) (6)

c. (b) (6)

Twitter: @(b) (6)

--

(b) (6)

c. (b) (6)

Twitter: @(b) (6)

--

(b) (6)
c. (b) (6)
Twitter: @(b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Mike Mayfield
Subject: RE: Tn SED
Date: Monday, January 27, 2020 12:05:05 PM

Mr. Mayfield,

Let me reach out to a few people here and get back to you.

Thanks,

Thor

-----Original Message-----
From: Mike Mayfield <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 12:02 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Tn SED

Good Morning Thor,

Gabrielle Rossi contacted me about getting the onboarding process started Friday. She contacted me again this morning about how it was going. Am I supposed to have received some information by email? I have not received anything yet. I didn't want to miss something to move the process along as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Mike

Sent from my iPhone

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Mike Mayfield
Subject: RE: PPO paperwork
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2020 1:09:39 PM

Mr. Mayfield,

I sent in your paperwork to PPO for vetting and it should come back hopefully by mid next week. Unfortunately, it can take awhile but I'm hoping for early to mid next week.

Have a great day.

Best,

Thor

-----Original Message-----
From: Mike Mayfield <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 1:08 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: PPO paperwork

Thor,

Good Afternoon! Just checking to see if you had heard anything back on my paperwork yet.

Mike

Sent from my iPhone

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Mike Mayfield
Subject: Re: Paperwork for PPO
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 9:27:59 AM

Thank you sir. I'll send it to the White House this lorning

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Mike Mayfield <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 10:55:06 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Paperwork for PPO

Thor,

Please see attached forms. I hope that I have completed them all correctly. Please let me know if there are any additions or corrections needed. I am not sure I was able to create hyperlinks as suggested.

Sincerely,

Mike Mayfield

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Nicole Bishop
Subject: RE: White House Tour - CONFIRMED
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 10:05:30 AM

Nicole, there shouldn't be any problem with your tour.

From: Nicole Bishop <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 5:13 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: White House Tour - CONFIRMED

Thanks! I appreciate your help!!!
nicole

On Jan 27, 2020, at 5:11 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

Hi Nicole,

I reached out to my friend over at the visitors office but they haven't gotten back to me. If I don't hear anything by tonight, I'll ping them again tomorrow morning.

Thanks!

Thor

From: Nicole Bishop <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 5:05 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: White House Tour - CONFIRMED

Hi Thor -

Just touching base to follow up… Are we good for the tour on Thursday? Please let me know if you need anything else/additional information from me.

Thank you again for EVERYTHING!

All the best,
nicole bishop

On Jan 26, 2020, at 3:39 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

Let me reach out to the office tomorrow and make sure. Thanks for pointing this out! I don't imagine it'll be an issue but I'll confirm tomorrow.

Thanks again!

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Nicole Bishop <(b) (6)>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 3:22:31 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Cc: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: White House Tour - CONFIRMED

Hello Thor -

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you so much for your help in arranging a tour of the White House for our group! We are so excited and appreciate your help!

This weekend I was going over trip details and noticed one of the names in our group does not appear correctly on the guest list.

The last name on the list appears as "(b) (6) ".

This person's name - as it appears on her driver's license - is "(b) (6) ".

Will this be a problem? Will she still be able to enter the White House for a tour?

Please let me know. If you need any additional information or clarification I will help in any was possible.

Again, many thanks!

Best,
Nicole Bishop

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jim Bishop <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: White House Tour - CONFIRMED
Date: January 16, 2020 at 4:41:13 PM EST
To: Nicole Bishop <(b) (6) >

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Courtney Knupp <(b) (6) >
Date: January 16, 2020 at 4:17:32 PM EST
To: Jim Bishop <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: FW: White House Tour - CONFIRMED

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC** <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>
Date: Thu, Jan 16, 2020 at 4:01 PM
Subject: FW: White House Tour - CONFIRMED
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6) >

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 3:55 PM
To: Knupp, Courtney - OSEC, Washington, DC <Courtney.Knupp@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: White House Tour - CONFIRMED

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: White House Tours - No Reply <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 3:32 PM
To: (b) (6) ; Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: White House Tour - CONFIRMED

Hello,
A self-guided tour of the White House is confirmed for the **USDA (5 guests)** group, (CS-2570051), for **5** of the **5** requested guests on **1/30/2020** at **10:00 AM.** Your Boarding Passcan be downloaded and shared with guests.

What's Next?

Confirm Responses	Print Boarding Pass
Guest List	Boarding Pass

What Guests Must Bring With Them

A Valid Government-Issued Photo ID

Drivers Licenses, Military IDs, Green Cards, and Passports are all valid forms of identification. US Citizens who are age 17 and under do not need a government-issued ID.

Foreign Passport

All foreign nationals must present a passport, regardless of age.

RSVP Information Must Match Your ID

All security information submitted to the White House using the RSVP link must match the valid, government-issued photo ID presented to US Secret Service on the day of your tour.

Printed Boarding Pass

Once your guests have cleared, you will receive an email with their tour boarding pass attached. If you are booking this tour on behalf of others, you must send this boarding pass to your guests. All guests are required to present the boarding pass on the day of their tour.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Arrival Instructions

Arrive 15 Minutes Before Scheduled Tour Time

This will help facilitate check in and clearing security.

Enter the White House Complex at the intersection of 15th St NW and Alexander Hamilton Place NW

Friendly Reminders

Dress for the weather

Guests will be standing outside before their tour.

Eat a snack and hydrate prior to arrival

Guests are prohibited from bringing outside food and drink into the White House.

There are no restrooms available inside the White House

Restrooms are located at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion and the White House Visitor Center.

Only approved guests are permitted on tours

Unapproved additions and/or substitutions to your guest list are strictly prohibited and will be turned away by US Secret Service.

Tours are self-guided

Secret Service Officers are posted throughout the White House to provide historical information, all you have to do is ask!

What to leave at home

Certain items are prohibited. Guests should not bring these items with them as there is nowhere to store belongings and US Secret Service will confiscate certain materials and items.

On behalf of President and Mrs. Trump, we hope that your group enjoys their visit to the White House.
Sincerely,
White House Visitors Office

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Friday, February 14, 2020 2:00:56 PM
Attachments: PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
13 Point Form.docx

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Hi (b) (6)

Could you please fill out the attached forms and send them back to me ASAP?

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 8:11:58 AM
Attachments: Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf
13 Point Form.docx

Good morning (b) (6),

I hope you are doing well.

Could you please fill out the attached forms and send them back to me?

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: This week
Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 2:49:15 PM

Hey man,

Let me call you in a few minutes.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 1:52:05 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: This week

Hey Thor,

Wanted to circle back on the USDA role.

I haven't heard from Scott's assistant yet.

Should I still expect a call from them?

Hope you're doing well!

(b) (6)

On Mon, Dec 2, 2019 at 9:57 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hey (b) (6),
>
> Thanks for coming in the other day.
>
> Hope you had a great Thanksgiving. I'm still in a lull after Alabama lost in a heartbreaker to Auburn but alas, life goes on.
>
> I'm going to have Scott Angle's assistant reach out to you (hopefully she does today) to schedule a meeting to talk more in detail about the policy advisor position.
>
> Thanks,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 6:06 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: This week

Hi Thor,

Thanks, again, for making time for me on Monday. It was good to get to know you better.

I hope you get a chance to fly home to (b) (6) for Thanksgiving!

Talk with you soon,

(b) (6)

--

(b) (6)

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--

(b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Thank You
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 8:06:07 AM

Morning (b) (6)

That game was a true heartbreaker but what's worse is our fanbase freaking out saying it's the end and Saban can't coach just because we missed the playoffs for the first year ever. We played for a national championship last year…

As soon as something comes up that I think you'd be a good fit for, I'll make sure to reach out.

Thanks!

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 8:34 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Thank You

Thor:

I hope you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Spent mine with family and ate too much as usual.

As for the missed field goal....was a great game that Bama almost won.

Just wondering if there are any job possibilities for me at USDA. As I said, I want to serve the President and his team in any capacity I can.

Please give me a shout any time if you need anything from me.

Thanks for all your help. It is appreciated.

(b) (6)

On Mon, Nov 18, 2019, 11:09 AM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

> Thor:
>
> Hope all is well. Tough how Tua is out for the season....
>
> Just writing to see if there are any possible opportunities at USDA. My only goal is to serve where I can do the most good for the President and his team.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thank you.

(b) (6)

On Tue, Nov 5, 2019, 5:40 PM (b) (6) <(b) (6)> wrote:

> Thor:
>
> I just want to thank you again for meeting with me last week. USDA is doing great work for the country and I would love to join your team.
>
> If you have any questions or need anything from me, just give me a shout any time. And I will make myself free to meet with anyone at USDA.
>
> (b) (6)
>
> PS--The Tide will crush LSU this Saturday!

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 6:00:53 PM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Hi (b) (6),

Could you please fill out the attached forms and send them back to me ASAP?

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Writing Test
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 3:49:59 PM

Thanks!

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 3:42 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Writing Test

Hi Thor,

Attached is the writing test as you requested.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

On Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 02:30:13 PM EST, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <thor.christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

Please respond to the two letters and send back to me in two hours.

Thanks! Good Luck!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Writing Test
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 2:30:09 PM
Attachments: Scan.pdf Attachment is a duplicate of the Attachment on pg. 26

Please respond to the two letters and send back to me in two hours.

Thanks! Good Luck!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Question
Date: Monday, January 13, 2020 5:34:22 PM

Fantastic, do you want to do tomorrow at 2:30? I'll call you right before to make sure you're good to go then I'll send the letters.

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 5:33 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Question

Great! I can do tomorrow or Wednesday after 1 if that works with you.

(b) (6)
On Monday, January 13, 2020, 05:09:16 PM EST, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <thor.christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

Fantastic, let me know whenever you have two hours to sit down and I'll send you two letters that we have received. We'd give you two hours to draft a response to the letters and send them back to me. Let me know what time works best for you.

Thanks!

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 4:41 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Question

Hi Thor,

Thanks for reaching out. I'd be happy to give it a try.

(b) (6)

On Monday, January 13, 2020, 10:46:00 AM EST, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <thor.christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi (b) (6),

I hope you had a good weekend.

I saw you're meeting with David Wu this week, I hope that interview goes well. After I showed your resume to the chief and deputy chief, they were curious if you would be interested in taking a writing test for a position in correspondence? I'm just reaching out to gauge your interest.

Let me know!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Forms
Date: Monday, January 13, 2020 5:09:23 PM

Thanks man.

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 4:47 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Forms

Hi Thor,

I will print them off and resend them as PDF's.

Thanks for the heads up.

(b) (6)

On Monday, January 13, 2020, 03:44:20 PM EST, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <thor.christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

Just pinging you on this again.

Thanks!

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 8:00 AM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Forms

Could you please send the bio sheet and questionnaire back in the fillable pdfs that I attached? They loaded weirdly on word.

Thanks!

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 8:55 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Forms

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi Thor,

Attached are the documents as you requested.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

On Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 05:58:59 PM EST, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <thor.christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

Please fill out and send back to me asap.

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 5:58:54 PM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Please fill out and send back to me asap.

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tara Baldwin
Subject: RE: Checking in | Salary Consideration
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020 12:08:51 PM

Hey Tara,

Thanks for your email! I'm pretty busy today but I'll give you a call tomorrow morning.

Thanks,

Thor

From: Tara Baldwin <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 11:41 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Checking in | Salary Consideration

Good Morning Thor,

I hope to give you a call today/tomorrow to see if you have great news to share that I am ready to come on board or at least an updated status. Thank you for appreciating my humor.

I realize in my initial PPO paperwork, I was asked to supply the last five year salary history. After much thought, I wanted to follow up to that with a copy of my tax returns for 3 years, 2013, 2014 and 2017. My duties and skill set during these positions at Department of Defense (program manager) and at the American Dental Association (director of administration) are the most relevant to the pending role at Rural Development. I took an entrepreneurial risk and made a career change two years ago therefore my income from real estate is not a true reflection of my value in direct relation to the pending salary we will discuss in the near future.

Thank you in advance for reviewing the depth of my skills during my time at DoD and at the ADA in correlation to the salaries I received at both positions.

I know you are busy, as our colleagues processing folks at the White House are also busy, but I hope to reach out for an update this week.

Have a great day, Thor.

Best,
Tara

--
Tara Baldwin
m: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tara Baldwin
Subject: RE: Correct Address
Date: Monday, February 10, 2020 10:47:10 AM

Good morning Tara,

That is very nice, thank you so much! My mailing address is:

Thor Christianson
1400 Independence Avenue
Whitten Bldg. Suite 536-A
Washington, D.C. 20250

I'll let you know when we know more from the White House, they're behind on everything unfortunately.

Reach out if you need anything!

Best,

Thor

From: Tara Baldwin <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Correct Address

Good Morning Thor,

The thank you card I sent to you was kicked back to me. I don't believe I left with your business card. Can you please share your best mailing address?

Thank you!
Tara

Tara L. Baldwin
m: (b) (6)

> On Jan 23, 2020, at 9:55 AM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Sure, I'll call you momentarily

From: Tara Baldwin <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: PPO Paperwork

Good Morning Thor,

I realize I don't have a phone number to reach you but hoped to get a status or update today?

Thank you for what you can share. I am available to talk at (b) (6) if that is easier.

Thanks,
Tara

Tara L. Baldwin
m: (b) (6)

> On Jan 15, 2020, at 10:56 AM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> Good morning Tara,
>
> Sorry for not following up!
>
> Yes, I received your information and have sent it away.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Thor
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Tara Baldwin <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2020 10:54 AM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Fwd: PPO Paperwork
>
> Good Morning Thor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Just making sure you received the PPO documents yesterday along with my resume.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Thank you,
Tara

Tara L. Baldwin
m: (b) (6)

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Tara Baldwin <(b) (6)>
> **Date:** January 14, 2020 at 10:08:18 AM EST
> **To:** "Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject: Re: PPO Paperwork**
>
> Good Morning Thor,
>
> Please see attached PPO package. On a fun side note, I realize that a close contact of mine at the White House, Kristina Baum, Comms Director, Science and Tech Policy covers broadband also. Should things move forward, I see us being effective together.
>
> Please let me know if you have any questions for me.
>
> Regards,
> Tara
>
> On Tue, Jan 14, 2020 at 7:55 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> > Great! Thanks!
> >
> > **From:** Tara Baldwin <(b) (6)>
> > **Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2020 9:45 PM
> > **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> > **Subject:** Re: PPO Paperwork

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi Thor,

It was a pleasure to meet you today! Thank you for the time you took to meet for this interview and all that you shared.

I will have these forms completed and over to you first thing tomorrow morning.

Many thanks,

Tara

On Mon, Jan 13, 2020 at 5:58 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hi Tara,
>
> It was great meeting you today, I enjoyed our discussion.
>
> As I mentioned towards the end of our chat, I'm sending you some paperwork. Could you please fill out the attached forms and send them back to me ASAP? This will allow us to get you into vetting over at the White House.
>
> Thank you very much and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.
>
> Best,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thor

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--

Tara Baldwin

m: (b) (6)

--

Tara Baldwin
m: (b) (6)

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tara Baldwin
Subject: RE: Check In
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:46:42 AM

Good morning Tara,

I'm still waiting for PPO to send back your vet. There's an enormous backlog (250+) so it might be awhile. But once I know, I'll shoot you a phone call!

- Thor

From: Tara Baldwin <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Check In

Good Morning Thor,

I hope you are well and I do know this is an incredibly busy week for everyone.

I thought I would check in to see if any update has been shared with you. If not yet, do you think it's safe to say I may hear something early next week?

Thank you!
Tara

Tara L. Baldwin
m: (b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Just making sure you received the PPO documents yesterday along with my resume.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Thank you,
Tara

Tara L. Baldwin
m: (b) (6)

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Tara Baldwin <(b) (6)>
> **Date:** January 14, 2020 at 10:08:18 AM EST
> **To:** "Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject: Re: PPO Paperwork**
>
> Good Morning Thor,
>
> Please see attached PPO package. On a fun side note, I realize that a close contact of mine at the White House, Kristina Baum, Comms Director, Science and Tech Policy covers broadband also. Should things move forward, I see us being effective together.
>
> Please let me know if you have any questions for me.
>
> Regards,
> Tara
>
> On Tue, Jan 14, 2020 at 7:55 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> > Great! Thanks!
> >
> > **From:** Tara Baldwin <(b) (6)>
> > **Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2020 9:45 PM
> > **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> > **Subject:** Re: PPO Paperwork

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Hi Thor,

It was a pleasure to meet you today! Thank you for the time you took to meet for this interview and all that you shared.

I will have these forms completed and over to you first thing tomorrow morning.

Many thanks,

Tara

On Mon, Jan 13, 2020 at 5:58 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hi Tara,
>
> It was great meeting you today, I enjoyed our discussion.
>
> As I mentioned towards the end of our chat, I'm sending you some paperwork. Could you please fill out the attached forms and send them back to me ASAP? This will allow us to get you into vetting over at the White House.
>
> Thank you very much and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.
>
> Best,
>
> Thor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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--

Tara Baldwin

m: (b) (6)

--

Tara Baldwin
m: (b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Your Question
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 5:21:21 PM

Tas,

As noted in my email, this office will not aid you in anyway with this particular matter.

Thank you for your understanding.

Best,

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 5:14 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Your Question

Thanks Thor.

To Whom shall I make this request at the White House?

Thank you for all your assistance.

Tas

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 3, 2019, at 3:55 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> (b) (6)
>
> After speaking with counsel, it would seem that the primary beneficiary of your being granted a waiver would be your new private sector employer. The USDA does not take a position with regard to whether or not the White House should, or should not, grant a personal request for a waiver to benefit a former employee or his private sector employer.
>
> In summary, this office will not forward your request nor will it aid you in anyway with this particular matter. You may of course, choose on your own, as a former appointee,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

to request a personal waiver from the Ethics Pledge's post-employment restrictions directly from the White House.

Best,

Thor Christianson

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Trump Ethics Waiver Request
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 12:44:31 PM

(b) (6)

I've forwarded your request to USDA's counsel's office. I'll reach out when I get a bit more clarity on this issue.

In the meantime, could I please get the best number to reach you? That way we can chat if you have any questions.

Mine is 202-913-3062.

Again, if you have any questions or want to discuss this in more detail, please do not hesitate to call me.

Thanks,

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:17 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Trump Ethics Waiver Request

Thor,

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving.

Just wanted to follow up on this request. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you.

(b) (6)

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Thu, Nov 21, 2019 at 10:01 AM
Subject: Fwd: Trump Ethics Waiver Request
To: <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Thu, Nov 21, 2019 at 9:39 AM
Subject: Trump Ethics Waiver Request
To: <Thor.Chistianson@usda.gov>

Thor,

I hope you are doing well.

(b) (6)

In order to protect USDA officials and or NCC from the appearance of violated the Trump Ethics Pledge, I sent the attached notice to Hannah Duke, with the Office of Presidential Personnel (OPP) dated November 14, 2019, requesting a waiver.

I have been working with Stuart Bender, Director of the Office of Ethics, with regards to the appropriate official to send and address the letter. Stuart suggested Hannah, since she was in charge of my onboarding with the Office of Presidential Personnel (OPP). However, considering how often staff members change in government service, I am uncertain if Hannah is still with OPP.

Do you have any insight to whom this letter should be sent and addressed?

Thank you for your assistance.

(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tate Bennett
Subject: Re: Question
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 3:52:22 PM

This is something that Lisa handles, if she hasn't gotten back to you by tomorrow please let me know.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Tate Bennett <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 3:29:21 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Question

Do you know by chance?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Tate Bennett <(b) (6) >
> **Date:** February 12, 2020 at 3:26:51 PM EST
> **To:** letonya.mann@usda.gov
> **Cc:** lisa.flores@usda.gov
> **Subject: Question**
>
> Hi there? Do you know my Usda user name/ password for my Web TA for OSEC?
>
> Sent from my iPhone

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tate Bennett
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: White House Onboarding Guidelines
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 1:15:00 PM

Not a problem at all.

From: Tate Bennett <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 1:14 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: White House Onboarding Guidelines

Usda onboarding, not White House. Melinda said she'd touch base about rescheduling that one till next week.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 3, 2020, at 1:05 PM, Tate Bennett <(b) (6)> wrote:
>
> Went ahead and got onboarding out of way on front end of (b) (6)!
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> **From:** "Stell, Melinda K. EOP/WHO" <(b) (6)>
> **Date:** February 3, 2020 at 10:05:00 AM EST
> **To:** "(b) (6)" <(b) (6)>
> **Cc:** "MacDougall, James M. EOP/WHO" <(b) (6)>, "Otano, Joy E. EOP/WHO" <(b) (6)>
> **Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: White House Onboarding Guidelines**
>
> Tate,
> Good morning and congratulations from all of us!
>
> Why don't we wait until next week for you to join us, if that works for you. Just give James a day or two notice when you would like to schedule the onboarding and we be happy to accommodate you.
>
> I'll be in touch with Thor Christenson to let him know your assignment start date will be pushed back just a little –
>
> Take care and we'll see you soon –
> Melinda

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Melinda Stell
Special Assistant to the President
Director of White House Personnel and Employee Engagement
Office) (b) (6)
Mobile)
EEOB

From: MacDougall, James M. EOP/WHO
<(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 9:54 AM
To: Stell, Melinda K. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Cc: Otano, Joy E. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: White House Onboarding Guidelines

Melinda,

Please see below regarding Tate Bennett.

I will let her know that we can make the change if you concur. This will require an updated MOU correct?

Best,
James

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Tate Bennett <(b) (6)>
> **Date:** February 3, 2020 at 8:52:19 AM EST
> **To:** "MacDougall, James M. EOP/WHO"
> <(b) (6)>
> **Cc:** "Wiggins, Jeremy G. EOP/WHO"
> <(b) (6)>,
> "Thor.Christianson@usda.gov"
> <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: White House Onboarding Guidelines**
>
> Hi James! Hope you had a nice weekend. (b) (6) . All is well. I'm still onboarding at USDA this morning. However, is there a way I can reschedule my White House onboarding from later today to later this week or next week? Thanks! Tate (b) (6)
>
> Sent from my iPhone

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

On Jan 27, 2020, at 5:12 PM, MacDougall, James M. EOP/WHO <(b) (6) > wrote:

Good afternoon, Tate,

Attached please find onboarding instructions for your start date of Monday afternoon, February 3, 2020. **After you review, please let me know if you have any questions.**

When you arrive at the entrance gate at 17th Street N.W. and State Place N.W., **please let Secret Service know you are on the Awaiting Pass List**.

Be sure to bring your USDA issued PIV card to your badging appointment occurring at 1:30 PM in EEOB 18. The PIV card will be reprogrammed for White House Complex access.

Please feel free to contact me at (b) (6) with any questions. We look forward to welcoming you to the White House!

Best,
James

James MacDougall
White House Personnel Coordinator
Office of White House Personnel
O: (b) (6)
C: (b) (6)
EEOB 104A

<Bennett, Tate - New White House Detailee Onboarding Instructions.pdf>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tate Bennett
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: White House Onboarding Guidelines
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 1:05:51 PM

Fantastic!

From: Tate Bennett <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 1:05 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: White House Onboarding Guidelines

Went ahead and got onboarding out of way on front end of (b) (6)!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Stell, Melinda K. EOP/WHO" <(b) (6)>
> **Date:** February 3, 2020 at 10:05:00 AM EST
> **To:** "(b) (6)" <(b) (6)>
> **Cc:** "MacDougall, James M. EOP/WHO" <(b) (6)>,
> "Otano, Joy E. EOP/WHO" <(b) (6)>
> **Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: White House Onboarding Guidelines**
>
> Tate,
> Good morning and congratulations from all of us!
>
> Why don't we wait until next week for you to join us, if that works for you. Just give James a day or two notice when you would like to schedule the onboarding and we be happy to accommodate you.
>
> I'll be in touch with Thor Christenson to let him know your assignment start date will be pushed back just a little –
>
> Take care and we'll see you soon –
> Melinda
>
> **Melinda Stell**
> Special Assistant to the President
> Director of White House Personnel and Employee Engagement
> **Office)** (b) (6)
> Mobile)
> **EEOB**
>
> ---
>
> **From:** MacDougall, James M. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Monday, February 3, 2020 9:54 AM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Stell, Melinda K. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Cc: Otano, Joy E. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: White House Onboarding Guidelines

Melinda,

Please see below regarding Tate Bennett.

I will let her know that we can make the change if you concur. This will require an updated MOU correct?

Best,
James

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Tate Bennett <(b) (6)>
> **Date:** February 3, 2020 at 8:52:19 AM EST
> **To:** "MacDougall, James M. EOP/WHO" <(b) (6)>
> **Cc:** "Wiggins, Jeremy G. EOP/WHO" <(b) (6)>, "Thor.Christianson@usda.gov" <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: White House Onboarding Guidelines**
>
> Hi James! Hope you had a nice weekend. (b) (6). All is well. I'm still onboarding at USDA this morning. However, is there a way I can reschedule my White House onboarding from later today to later this week or next week? Thanks! Tate (b) (6)
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On Jan 27, 2020, at 5:12 PM, MacDougall, James M. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)> wrote:
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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

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Please feel free to contact me at (b) (6) with any questions. We look forward to welcoming you to the White House!

Best,
James

James MacDougall
White House Personnel Coordinator
Office of White House Personnel
O: (b) (6)
C: (b) (6)
EEOB 104A

<Bennett, Tate - New White House Detailee Onboarding Instructions.pdf>

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Tate Bennett
Subject: Re: Morning!
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 8:07:57 AM

I don't see anything

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Tate Bennett <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 8:04:39 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Morning!

Welp. See below!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Tate Bennett <(b) (6) >
> **Date:** February 3, 2020 at 8:03:10 AM EST
> **To:** (b) (6) Jeremy G. Wiggins
> **Subject: Morning!**

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: PPO Paperwork
Date: Monday, January 13, 2020 5:58:42 PM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Hi Tara,

It was great meeting you today, I enjoyed our discussion.

As I mentioned towards the end of our chat, I'm sending you some paperwork. Could you please fill out the attached forms and send them back to me ASAP? This will allow us to get you into vetting over at the White House.

Thank you very much and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best,

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Torie Ness
Subject: Re: Following Up
Date: Sunday, December 1, 2019 9:20:39 PM

Hey Torie,

Sorry for the tardy response. I signed and sent off your paperwork before thanksgiving so we're still on track for that start date!

I'm planning on following up tomorrow morning so I'll let you know if anything has changed.

Thanks!

- Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Torie Ness <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2019 2:56:23 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Following Up

Hi Thor!

Hope you had a nice Thanksgiving! Just checking in to see if things are still on track for the timeline we discussed of hopefully coming onboard December 9th. I did my fingerprints the Friday before the holiday and they said that would take about a week and a half to process.

My office and the Senator are aware of the December 9 start date and would like to announce my departure on our weekly staff call Monday at 10:30 so I wanted to check with you before that happens.

Let me know, thanks!
Torie

On Tuesday, November 19, 2019, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Nope! You're good
>
> Get Outlook for iOS
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Torie Ness <(b) (6) [redacted]>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 3:57:47 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Following Up
>
> Hi Thor!
>
> Following up with you to see if there is any additional paperwork that I need to fill out.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Want to make sure I get you all necessary information to continue in the process.

Please let me know, thanks!
-Torie

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Torie Ness
Subject: Re: Vetting
Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 8:36:56 AM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Good morning Torie,

It was great meeting you yesterday evening.

While you're still under consideration for a position, could you please fill out the attached documents and send them back to me asap? These documents are for vetting.

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Trent Allard
Subject: RE: Update
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 1:21:18 PM

I'm hoping to have you completely cleared this week. I don't want to give you a start date until we're 100% go. I'll call you as soon as that happens. I'd imagine yes though.

- Thor

-----Original Message-----
From: Trent Allard <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 1:20 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Update

Hey Thor,

Me again. Are there any new updates? I am supposed to sign for an apartment on the 20th and was seeing if you had any idea if I could have everything done before March? Let me know when you get a chance. Thanks again man.

Trent

Sent from my iPhone

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Trent Allard
Subject: RE: Check in
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 1:32:17 PM

Hey Trent,

Things move slowly here on a good day. I have no idea when our paperwork will be done, we're kind of at the mercy of the White House, HR, and OPM. As I get information, I'll make sure to keep you updated.

- Thor

-----Original Message-----
From: Trent Allard <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 1:23 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Check in

Hey Thor,

Hope your day is going well. Was checking in to see if there was anything new? Also, if nothing yet, do you have kind of a timetable when you best think the paperwork would be done? I'm just trying to plan out some things and make sure I have somewhat of an idea on what to expect. I appreciate everything again man and hope all is well.

Trent

Sent from my iPhone

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Trent Allard
Subject: RE: Monday
Date: Friday, January 24, 2020 2:12:11 PM

Great!

From: Trent Allard <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 1:38 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Monday

Hey Thor,

I apologize for missing your call- I was returning home from a trip to (b) (6) late this morning. Yes, Monday at 3 works great with me. I'm looking forward to it. Thanks again man.

Trent

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 24, 2020, at 12:59 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> Hey Trent,
>
> Are you available Monday for a quick phone call the chief of staff at RD at 3? She wants to chat for a few minutes.
>
> Thanks!
>
> Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Trent Allard
Subject: Re: CA
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 12:36:51 PM

Hey man,

I'm in a meeting but it'll be over soon. I'll give you a call afterwards. But long story short, we're just waiting to have your vet cleared from PPO.

- Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Trent Allard <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 12:32:17 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: CA

Hey Thor,

I hope you enjoyed the long weekend and all is well. I was checking in to see if there are any new developments or if you knew of a timetable for when something would happen? I'm really interested in this position but I've received another offer so I'm just trying to wait as long as I can for everything in DC to go through but at the same time I'm in a crunch.

Whenever you get a minute if you could just let me know any news you may have, I'd really appreciate it. Again, thanks for everything and all the help and I'll be on the look out for your emails.

Thanks,

Trent

Sent from my iPhone

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Trent Allard
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2020 12:42:29 PM

Thanks man, I'll send them off today.

Roll tide!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Trent Allard <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 12:40:51 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Forms

Hey Thor,

Hope your week has gone well. I have attached the two documents below - please let me know if they still come through weird and ill get right on it. Thanks again for all the help, I appreciate it.

Trent

On Wed, Jan 8, 2020 at 5:52 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hey Trent,
>
> I heard your interview went well. Could you please refill out these forms ASAP? For some reason they didn't open well on my computer.
>
> Thanks!
>
> Thor
>
> 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.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Trent Allard
Subject: Re: Monday Interview
Date: Friday, January 3, 2020 9:40:22 PM

Or Monday early afternoon, whatever works

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Trent Allard <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 3:43:55 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Monday Interview

Absolutely, that sounds good. Talk to you soon. I appreciate it again.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 3, 2020, at 3:34 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> Hey man,
>
> No worries! Do you mind if I call you instead of email? It'll probably be around 6-6:30
>
> Thanks!
>
> Thor
>
> Get Outlook for iOS
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Trent Allard <(b) (6) >
> **Sent:** Friday, January 3, 2020 3:26:46 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Monday Interview
>
> Hey Thor,
>
> I apologize I haven't gotten back to you. (b) (6) . I received Stephanie's email about the Monday interview and am still very much interested if the position is still open. When you get a minute if you could just email me back with any updates you have, I'd really appreciate it. Thanks again and I hope your holiday season went well.
>
> Take care,

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Trent.

Sent from my iPhone

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: Trent Allard
Subject: Re: Monday Interview
Date: Friday, January 3, 2020 8:00:22 PM

Hey man,

I just got out of the office. Mine if call you at noon tomorrow? This entire day has been hectic to say the least.

- Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Trent Allard <(b) (6) [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 3:43:55 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Monday Interview

Absolutely, that sounds good. Talk to you soon. I appreciate it again.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 3, 2020, at 3:34 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> Hey man,
>
> No worries! Do you mind if I call you instead of email? It'll probably be around 6-6:30
>
> Thanks!
>
> Thor
>
> Get Outlook for iOS
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Trent Allard <(b) (6) [redacted]>
> **Sent:** Friday, January 3, 2020 3:26:46 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Monday Interview
>
> Hey Thor,
>
> I apologize I haven't gotten back to you. (b) (6) [redacted]. I received Stephanie's email about the Monday interview and am still very much interested if the

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

position is still open. When you get a minute if you could just email me back with any updates you have, I'd really appreciate it. Thanks again and I hope your holiday season went well.

Take care,

Trent.

Sent from my iPhone

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 5:20:18 PM
Attachments: PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
13 Point Form.docx

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Hey man,

It was good talking with you today.

Could you please fill out the attached forms just so we can put you into vetting?

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Forms
Date: Thursday, December 5, 2019 8:09:13 AM

Thanks!

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 7:33 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Forms

Sorry, some of it didn't save properly. These are the correct forms.

On Wed, Dec 4, 2019 at 4:28 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hey (b) (6),
>
> Please fill out these and send them to me asap.
>
> Thanks!
>
> Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 4:28:06 PM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Hey (b) (6),

Please fill out these and send them to me asap.

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Writing
Date: Monday, November 25, 2019 4:14:36 PM

Hey (b) (6),

Glad it went well!

Jeanette's email is Jeanette.whitener@usda.gov and David's is David.wu@usda.gov

Thanks!

- Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 4:07 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Writing

Hey Thor,

Had my interview with Jeanette and David earlier and thought it went well. If you don't mind, could you send me their emails so I can shoot a quick thank you note over to them?

Thanks,
(b) (6)

On Sun, Nov 24, 2019 at 4:37 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Are you available this week to come back in and meet with a few folks? I'll call you tomorrow to figure everything out!
>
> - Thor
>
> Get Outlook for iOS
>
> ---
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Saturday, November 23, 2019 12:10:47 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Writing
>
> Thor,
>
> That's good to hear! Didn't know too much about mangoes going in so I'm glad it turned out well.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

I'm free all day for that call so just let me know.

Thanks,
(b) (6)

On Fri, Nov 22, 2019 at 7:14 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hey man,
>
> Met with some folks and showed them your work, we were all very impressed. I'm going to give you a call tomorrow (around noon) to try and set some stuff up.
>
> Great job!
>
> - Thor
>
> Get Outlook for iOS
>
> ---
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Friday, November 22, 2019 3:58:45 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Writing
>
> Here you go!
>
> On Fri, Nov 22, 2019 at 2:00 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> > Please send back in two hours or earlier.
> >
> > Have fun!
> >
> > 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.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Is this the right one?
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 1:33:23 PM

Perfect, I'll send it at 2

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 11:34:33 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Is this the right one?

Yes sir.

On Fri, Nov 22, 2019 at 11:20 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Writing
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 2:00:34 PM
Attachments: Scan.pdf Attachment is a duplicate of the Attachment on pg. 26

Please send back in two hours or earlier.

Have fun!

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Forms
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 8:58:52 AM

Thanks!

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 8:58 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Forms

Thor,

Please find attached the completed forms. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Regards,
(b) (6)

On Fri, Jan 24, 2020 at 2:23 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hi (b) (6),
>
> Please fill out the attached forms and send back to me asap.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Thor
>
> 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) (6)
(b) (6)

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forms
Date: Friday, January 24, 2020 2:23:48 PM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Hi (b) (6),

Please fill out the attached forms and send back to me asap.

Thanks,

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: paperwork
Date: Friday, December 13, 2019 11:48:35 AM
Attachments: 13 Point Form.docx
Appointee Information Sheet SKC_SES BIO Sheet.pdf
PPO Research Questionnaire.pdf

Attachments are duplicates of the Attachments on pg. 6

Hey (b) (6)

Great seeing you again! Could you please fill out these forms ASAP so we can send you through vetting?

Thanks!

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Meeting
Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 1:47:18 PM

When you get inside the building, just give me a call and I'll come down and get you. 202-913-3062

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 9:50 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting

That works well for me. Where would you like to meet you?

(b) (6)

On Tue, Dec 3, 2019 at 6:41 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Sure, how does Friday at 10am work?
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Monday, December 2, 2019 8:29 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Meeting
>
> Hey Thor,
>
> I apologize for the delay in my response. We didn't nail down a time, but could we perhaps do Friday? I can make anytime work on Friday but my Thursday options would be limited to 12:00-2:00.
>
> Thanks again,
>
> (b) (6)
>
> On Mon, Dec 2, 2019 at 11:42 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> > (b) (6),
> >
> > I was emailing you to confirm our meeting for this Thursday. I must admit, I forgot what time we agreed on, could you please let me know?

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Thanks and I'm looking forward to it.

Best,

Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Follow-up
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 10:53:19 PM

Good evening (b) (6),

That's great you're going to meet with Misty, I have no doubt it'll go as well as it went today with Marie.

Her email is Marie.wheat@usda.gov

Let me know if you need anything else and I'll see you when you meet with Misty.

Have a great night!

Best,

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 10:49:04 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Follow-up

Hello Thor,

Thank you for taking the time to sit-in on my interview with Marie earlier today. I am talking with Alexandra Lavy to schedule an interview with Rural Development's Chief of Staff Misty Giles in the near future.

If appropriate to do so, would you provide me Marie Wheat's email information? I would like to email her a note of thanks, but am unable to locate her email address online.

Please let me know if any additional information is needed from me at this time.

Your time and consideration are very much appreciated.

Best,
(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Writing
Date: Friday, March 6, 2020 2:38:49 PM

(b) (6) ,

Thank you very much! Well done!

Have a great weekend and good luck on Tuesday!

Best,

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 2:32 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Writing

Hi Thor,

Attached are my writing test responses. Thank you again for sending those over.

Please let me know if there's anything you need from me.

Best,
(b) (6)

> On Mar 6, 2020, at 12:35 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> Sorry again for being late, I always try to be punctual!
>
> Attached are two letters that were sent into USDA, please write your responses and send them back to me in two hours.
>
> Looking forward to seeing them, bonne chance!
>
> - Thor

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Writing
Date: Friday, March 6, 2020 12:35:24 PM
Attachments: Scan.pdf Attachment is a duplicate of the Attachment on pg. 26

Sorry again for being late, I always try to be punctual!

Attached are two letters that were sent into USDA, please write your responses and send them back to me in two hours.

Looking forward to seeing them, bonne chance!

- Thor

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Job Update
Date: Monday, January 13, 2020 8:58:52 AM

Good morning (b) (6),

Thanks for letting me know! Good luck!

- Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Job Update

Good morning, Thor!

Just wanted to write and let you know that this morning I have accepted an offer from a private company.

I wanted to thank you for everything you have done to help me at Agriculture, but ultimately the private company was able to offer me a great position and a quick start date.

Thank you again and I hope you'll be able to fill those position soon.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Following up
Date: Monday, December 30, 2019 2:06:23 PM

(b) (6),

I hope you had a great Christmas as well!

I'm currently in (b) (6) and I'll be back Thursday morning. Let's touch base when I have my calendar in front of me and we'll get those interviews scheduled.
Have a great new year!

Best,

Thor

Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 2:04:20 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Following up

Good afternoon, Thor!

Hope you had a great Christmas and Happy (almost) New Year!

Just wanted to follow up on scheduling some interviews for the EA positions you mentioned in our phone call when I get back next week.

I appreciate all you've done to help me in the process!

--
Yours,
(b) (6)

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AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: writing test
Date: Monday, December 16, 2019 4:54:25 PM

Hey (b) (6),

Sorry I've been out of the office most of the day at the Pentagon.

Let's plan to chat tomorrow. Let me know what time works best for you.

Thanks!

Thor

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2019 12:38 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: writing test

I am free both today and tomorrow.

This afternoon is fairly open for me and tomorrow I should be available at any time.

(b) (6)

On Mon, Dec 16, 2019 at 10:46 AM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Good morning (b) (6),
>
> Maybe we can chat about it today or tomorrow over the phone briefly and then we can schedule a meeting for when you get back to DC.
>
> Let me know if that works for you.
>
> - Thor
>
> ---
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Sunday, December 15, 2019 7:40 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

Subject: Re: writing test

Thor,

Absolutely no worries! Thank you for responding.

I am very interested in interviewing. However, I am currently in (b) (6) so it would have to be a phone or a video call interview - if that is alright?

I am free any time this week, so please let me know what works best.

I hope you had a great weekend and I look forward to hearing from you.

(b) (6)

> On Dec 13, 2019, at 10:41 PM, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:
>
> Good evening (b) (6),
>
> I hope you are doing well.
>
> Sorry I didn't get back to you, I've been running around up in Annapolis most of the day.
>
> When we talked about everything and particularly with your resume, we thought it might be a better opportunity for you if you interviewed to be a confidential assistant with our assistant secretary for administration. Given your experience as an intern, I personally agree.
>
> If you're interested in interviewing with David Wu, the assistant secretary, than please let me know.
>
> Have a great weekend!
>
> Best,
>
> Thor
>
> Get Outlook for iOS

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2019 8:23:50 PM

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: writing test

Good Evening Thor,

Just wanted to drop a note and ask about your meeting with the Chief and Deputy Chief this morning! I'm sure you are very busy, but just wanted to check in.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

(b) (6)

On Tuesday, December 10, 2019, Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Hey (b) (6),
>
> It was great meeting you today I enjoyed our conversation.
>
> I had a chance to look at your writing samples and they were fantastic! Well done!
>
> I'm going to show them to the chief and deputy chief Friday morning and I'll give you a call after.
>
> Again, very well done and I'll reach out shortly.
>
> Have a great evening.
>
> Best,
>
> Thor
>
> Get Outlook for iOS
>
> ---
>
> **From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2019 4:44:34 PM
> **To:** Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: writing test
>
> Thor,
>
> It was great to meet you today! Attached are my letter responses.

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Please let me know what else you need from me.

Yours,

(b) (6)

On Tue, Dec 10, 2019 at 3:01 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Please send back to me by 5.
>
> Good Luck!
>
> Let me know that you got it!
>
> 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.

--
Yours,
(b) (6)

--
Yours,
(b) (6)

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From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: writing test
Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 4:47:51 PM

Merci!

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 4:45 PM
To: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: writing test

Thor,

It was great to meet you today! Attached are my letter responses.

Please let me know what else you need from me.

Yours,

(b) (6)

On Tue, Dec 10, 2019 at 3:01 PM Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov> wrote:

> Please send back to me by 5.
>
> Good Luck!
>
> Let me know that you got it!
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From: Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: writing test
Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 3:01:13 PM
Attachments: Scan.pdf Attachment is a duplicate of an Attachment on pg. 26

Please send back to me by 5.

Good Luck!

Let me know that you got it!

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From: McEntee, John D. II EOP/WHO
To: SP3.PS3 - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC; Buckham, Matthew A. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: PPO and USDA
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 8:53:03 AM

Great on Art. Matt will work on those other items this week.

From: SP3.PS3 - OSEC, Washington, DC <Sp3@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 8:09 AM
To: McEntee, John D. II EOP/WHO <(b)(6) [redacted]>
Cc: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <joby.young@usda.gov>; Christianson, Thor - OSEC, Washington, DC <Thor.Christianson@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: PPO and USDA

John,

We were able to interview Art Harding virtually and are prepared to offer him the position of Executive Secretary ay USDA. Additionally, we have several personnel actions that you and I need to discuss so that we can resolve any misunderstanding and move to mutually satisfactory resolution. These actions have not been critical during this time of pandemic separation but as we are beginning to have people return, it would be important to have these people in their appropriate places. We would like to invite you and your team to visit us at USDA to meet our folks face to face. If that isn't convenient, maybe we can do a skype call or a phone visit. Please let me know when we can arrange a visit.

Best,

Sonny

From: McEntee, John D. II EOP/WHO <(b)(6) [redacted]>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 7:49 AM
To: SP3.PS3 - OSEC, Washington, DC <Sp3@usda.gov>
Cc: Fleming, John C. Jr. EOP/WHO <(b)(6) [redacted]>; Buckham, Matthew A. EOP/WHO <(b)(6) [redacted]>
Subject: RE: PPO and USDA

Secretary Perdue,

Thank you for the note and for your continued leadership during this critical time in our nation's history. I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the President has the best personnel serving him at USDA.

You raised two questions: the speed of the vetting and control of the hiring.

As to the first, my team took over February 24th. Your press assistant candidate's name was entered

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into our system the next day, and (b)(6) [redacted]. Since then, we've dramatically improved our efficiency and vets now take just a few days.

On your broader questions of candidate selection, historically, agency control of hiring has been the exception, not the rule. The Office of Presidential Personnel (PPO) was created during the Nixon Administration to give the President direct involvement in the hiring, firing, and reassigning of personnel across agencies. Under Bush 43, cabinet agencies were not permitted to hire anyone who was not on PPO's "must hire" list. (b)(6) [redacted].

However, I have decided to partner with the agencies, allowing for their input on personnel matters so long as they meet White House requests when we make them. In order for this partnership to work, there are certain processes and expectations which must be adhered to by all agencies, including yours. These expectations are not rigorous, and your colleagues are following them.

Over the past few weeks, PPO has made personnel requests of your agency which have not been granted. (b)(6) [redacted].
I look forward to your staff working with mine to meet the White House personnel requests in a timely fashion.

I suspect this is an incredibly busy time for you. I hope my brief explanation of the personnel process adequately addressed your concerns.

Best,

John McEntee

From: SP3.PS3 - OSEC, Washington, DC <Sp3@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 6:02 PM
To: McEntee, John D. II EOP/WHO <(b)(6) [redacted]>
Subject: PPO and USDA

John,

I enjoyed sitting down with you in your office a few weeks ago. I felt that we had a productive conversation and was reassured to hear that some of the changes you had directed PPO staff to implement were not directed at USDA given that our management and delivery of results for the President was well-regarded in the White House. I also appreciate the overall expectation that the President has that you effectively vet potential personnel decisions from a risk management perspective and otherwise.

Although I have never served in the federal government before being asked by President Trump to accept this position, except for my time in the USAF, I do believe my experience serving as 8 years as Governor of Georgia with over 100,00 employees does provide some critical expertise in how to manage large workforces with multiple mission areas and multiple responsibilities. I am a firm believer that good people lead to good policies, and good policies lead to good politics. As I

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mentioned to you when we met, I would like to once again submit that, since the beginning of the Administration, USDA has been a well-managed Agency that has successfully implemented the President's agenda.. Evidence of this fact consists of things such as two successful trade mitigation programs, deployment of rural broadband programs, an aggressive deregulatory agenda, as well as improved efficiency, effectiveness and customer service for the agriculture and rural communities that are important constituencies of the President's.

Indeed, I think most would agree that, despite significant economic challenges due to issues varying from weather to trade retaliation to a global pandemic, the farm community has remained steadfastly supportive of the President and his agenda, which we have delivered on.

Throughout this time, we have enjoyed a well-functioning partnership with PPO, working together to identify quality, high performing candidates, selected by USDA management, expeditiously vetted by PPO and onboarded to then deliver the results which I have mentioned above. Our team has demonstrated a proven record and delivered for the President time and again. The key element of this success has been a high performing management system whereby we in USDA leadership select quality people, outline clear expectations, and hold each other accountable for results. President Trump has asked me to manage this Department in this way, and I have delivered.



In closing, the USDA team consists of managers and team members who have proven their competence and commitment to the President through both their conduct and the results they

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deliver on his behalf every day. It only makes sense that they be allowed to continue their good record and demonstrated service to the President in the ways mentioned above. I have enclosed a list of pending personnel requests that I would ask PPO to work with us at USDA to resolve asap so that our work can go on. Should you feel the need for a conversation with me over these issues, I am available at your convenience. Further, if you feel that the President has directed you to make these managerial decisions at USDA rather than me, I am prepared to meet with him and you to discuss. I trust that we all are working for the same goal....a fully functioning federal government that exemplifies the President's Whole of America vision.

Very Respectfully,

Sonny Perdue

1. Rural Business Cooperative Service, Administrator – I have selected Rebeckah Adcock for this position. Rebeckah has led our deregulatory efforts at USDA, one of the President's top Administration-wide priorities. In my view, through her committed service, she has earned the opportunity to serve as a Principal in her own right and would serve the President well in this position.
2. Trade and Foreign Agriculture Affairs, Chief of Staff – I have selected Anna Osterlind-Jones to serve in this role. Anna has demonstrated superior leadership skills, communication skills, and conversance with the work of international agricultural trade and is therefore our selection for this position.
3. Departmental Administration, Chief of Staff – I have asked Courtney Knupp to serve in this role due to her successful management of operational issues within the Research, Education and Economics Mission Area, where she currently serves. This includes our successful relocation of two agencies to Kansas City, MO an achievement for which the President received significant praise as part of his commitment to 'drain the swamp.' DA manages the operational improvements, including our IT modernization, a priority of the White House's overall IT Modernization efforts.
4. Research, Education and Economics, Chief of Staff – I have asked Veronica Wong to serve in this role. Veronica has led our program of effectively and skillfully responding to Congressional oversight and is a proven leader and communicator who's Congressional affairs portfolio included REE issues.
5. Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and External Affairs – I have asked (b)(6) to serve in this role. (b)(6) [redacted]
6. Office of Communications, Press Assistant – We had previously selected a promising candidate who (b)(6) [redacted]. Unfortunately, due to a two month delay in PPO vetting and approval to join USDA, (b)(6) [redacted]. (b)(6) [redacted] I have tasked our Communications team with swiftly presenting me with another quality candidate and then will seek timely vetting from your team.
7. Office of Communications, Senior Advisor for Internal Communications – I have asked Ryann Durant to serve in this role, which she has been doing in an "acting" capacity for some time. I ask that she be approved for permanent status quickly. Ryann is a proven leader, communicator, and go-getter who has been delivering in this area. Effectively communicating strategically to our 100,000+ employees is crucial, especially during the current challenging

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circumstances.

8. Office of Civil Rights, Chief of Staff – Our newly hired Deputy Assistant Secretary has done very good work in stabilizing a challenging office. He has shared with me that career employee Ted Gutman has been an invaluable asset in his early successes due to Ted's extensive subject matter expertise and skill in navigating the sensitive environment inherent in this area. I have concurred with his recommendation and believe that a known and proven career employee is the best approach given the particular circumstances of this office.
9. (b)(6), (b)(5) DPP

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