

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

MEMORANDUM FOR STEPHEN ALEXANDER VADEN  
ACTING GENERAL COUNSEL  
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

STUART BENDER  
DESIGNATED AGENCY ETHICS OFFICIAL AND  
DIRECTOR, USDA OFFICE OF ETHICS

FROM: Donald F. McGahn II  
Counsel To The President  
The White House


SUBJECT: Limited Waiver of Paragraph 7 of the Ethics Pledge

Official: Kailee Tkacz  
Policy Advisor, Office of Congressional Relations  
United States Department of Agriculture

After reviewing the U.S. Department of Agriculture's limited waiver request memorandum, I hereby waive the requirements of paragraph 7 of the Ethics Pledge to Ms. Kailee Tkacz to allow her to advise the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior Department officials with respect to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans process. I have determined that it is in the public interest to grant this limited waiver because of Ms. Tkacz's expertise in the process by which the Dietary Guidelines for Americans are issued every five years. Ms. Tkacz's extensive understanding of the formulation of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, as well as the National Academy of Medicine's recent recommendations for improving the process, make her uniquely qualified to assist the Secretary of Agriculture and his senior leadership team in issuing the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

In light of the importance of the aforementioned efforts to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a limited waiver the provisions of paragraph 7 of the Ethics Pledge (contained in Section 1 of Executive Order 13770) is justified to enable Ms. Tkacz to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on this discrete matter. Accordingly, I authorize Ms. Tkacz to participate personally and substantially in matters regarding the Dietary Guidelines for Americans process. I understand that Ms. Tkacz will otherwise comply with the remainder of the requirements imposed by the President's Ethics Pledge and with all preexisting government ethics rules.

Signature:

  
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Donald F. McGahn II  
Counsel to the President

Date:

25 August 2017