



PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

March 18, 2021

The Honorable Tom Carper
United States Senate
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Carper:

The Partnership for Public Service applauds introduction of the Periodically Listing Updates to Management Act (PLUM Act), which will bring increased transparency and accountability to the federal government by letting the American people know who is serving in a policy and management role as a political appointee or a senior career official. We thank you for your leadership on this important piece of legislation.

The Partnership for Public Service, through our [Political Appointee Tracker](#), has worked to provide information on the status of over 700 key political positions requiring Senate confirmation. Our work has revealed the need for more complete and accurate real-time data about political appointments, consisting of over 4,000 presidential political appointees, of which over 1,200 require Senate confirmation.

While the traditional “Plum Book” issued every election year is the most complete listing of political appointments, it is already outdated by the time that it is published. The current process for gathering the information in the Plum Book – a data call from the Office of Personnel Management every four years – provides only a snapshot in time and leads to many data errors, including missing terms, mislabeled appointment types, and incorrect or outdated titles and offices.

The inadequacies of this antiquated data call were on display again in 2020, with the Plum Book released to the public on-line on December 30 – months after presidential transition activities began – and again filled with errors and omissions.

The PLUM Act responds to a recommendation of the Government Accountability Office for Congress to consider requiring more comprehensive and timely information on political appointees. This legislation will ensure public access to information that is already available to those who can afford it through subscription to private vendors who research appointments.

As the PLUM Act moves forward, we are committed to working with you and your excellent staff to build bipartisan support and ensure that it can be implemented efficiently and effectively.

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Thank you for your work over the years to build bipartisan consensus on improving government transparency and modernizing the way government does business. We look forward to working with you and the other members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs to continue this legacy and bring the Plum Book into the 21st Century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Max Stier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Max" and the last name "Stier" clearly distinguishable.

Max Stier
President and CEO
Partnership for Public Service