



PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

March 18, 2021

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney:

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 and your cosponsors, Rep. Gerry Connolly and Rep. John Sarbanes, 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“Plum Book” issued every election year is the most complete listing of political appointments, it is already outdated by the time that it is published.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snapshot in time and leads to many data errors, including missing terms, mislabeled appointment types, and incorrect or outdated titles and offices.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 until 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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The Committee on Oversight and Reform has a strong record of 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 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 written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Max Stier
President and CEO
Partnership for Public Service