

July 7, 2017

Ms. Katherine D. McManus
Deputy Legal Adviser and
Designated Agency Ethics Official
Office of the Legal Adviser
Department of State

Re: Ethics Undertakings

Dear Ms. McManus:

I am committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct for government officials. If confirmed as Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as required by 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me: any spouse or minor child of mine; any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner; any organization in which I serve as officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee; and any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

I understand that a heightened prospect of a conflict of interest could exist as to companies that maintain a presence in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, because they may be more likely than other companies to seek official assistance from or make contact with the Embassy or otherwise be affected by policies and engagement implemented by the Embassy. I will remain alert to the possible need to recuse where appropriate.

I will retain my position as a trustee of two family revocable trusts. I will not receive any fees for the services that I provide as a trustee during my appointment to the position of Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of either of these trusts, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2).

In addition, I will recuse myself on a case-by-case basis from participation in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I determine that a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts would question my impartiality in the matter, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. Part 2635, Subpart E.

Ms. Katherine D. McManus

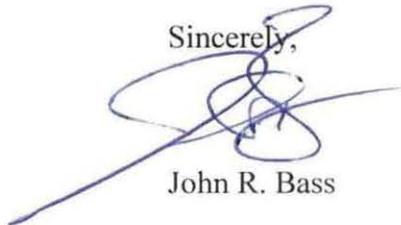
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I have a managed account, and I will direct the account manager to obtain my prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the exemption at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds. I will monitor whether the account manager is following this direction regarding prior approval.

I have been advised that this ethics agreement will be posted publicly, consistent with 5 U.S.C. § 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other Presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "John R. Bass", written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to the cursive and overlapping lines.

John R. Bass