

August 10, 2016

Secretary Clinton,

As your transition team begins to take shape and receive public funding, we the undersigned write to reaffirm the importance of selecting executive branch appointees with a documented record of fighting for the public interest.

We are heartened to see that the Democratic Party's 2016 platform is perhaps its most progressive one to date. But to realize its promise – including serious regulation of the banks, action to confront climate change, revitalized antitrust enforcement, support for fair trade and labor rights, progressive telecommunications policy, and so much more – we must remember the maxim, “personnel is policy.” It is imperative that cabinet members and other agency and department heads be willing to assertively wield the tools at their disposal (and, when needed, forge new ones) in order to pursue the public interest.

Historically, too many Wall Street executives and corporate insiders have traveled through the revolving door between private industry and government. Only months removed from lucrative past or future positions, they have been granted influential positions in the upper echelons of presidential administrations. They are often offered, and receive, massive golden parachute bonuses from their past employers for taking these government positions.

The result of this practice is that the interests of elites are over-represented in Washington. Ordinary Americans understandably feel they lack a seat at the table. In an administration dominated by revolving door appointees, policies challenging powerful interests face a harder road to enactment, and government priorities tend towards those of well-connected elites.

The Democratic Party's new platform implicitly recognizes that such dynamics can lead to detrimental policy determinations – as you have over the course of your campaign to date:

- In an August, 2015 op-ed with Senator Tammy Baldwin, you affirmed your agreement that “personnel is policy.”
- You have endorsed Senator Baldwin’s legislation that would make golden parachutes for government positions criminally illegal.
- Your whitepaper on reforming the financial sector states that as president you would “appoint tough, independent-minded regulators to help get the job done” and, in addition to advancing new reforms through Congress, “appoint regulators who would use both these new authorities and the substantial authorities they already have to hold firms accountable.”
- You have pledged to consult with Senator Warren on appointments that relate to financial regulation.

As you begin to consider who would serve in your administration, we write to urge you to follow through on these commitments and the general spirit behind them. By doing so, you will ensure that your public positions on issues ranging from trade to Wall Street reform will not be undermined by executive branch appointees.

Your opponent, Donald Trump, has already named the leadership of his transition team, and we expect that you will announce yours in the coming days. We have watched with great interest the early but rising public speculation about certain individuals’ potential roles in a Clinton administration.

To show Americans your commitment to implementing the Democratic Party’s platform, we urge you to select proven policymakers whose commitment to the public interest is unimpeachable to lead your transition efforts.

Moreover, we urge you to publicly state that, should you win the presidency, you will appoint personnel from backgrounds in public interest advocacy, academia, and public service to influential positions within your

administration, rather than merely drawing from the usual set of corporate insiders.

Thank you,

Center for Popular Democracy Action  
Communications Workers of America  
CREDO Action  
Daily Kos  
Democracy for America  
MoveOn.org  
New York Communities for Change  
Other98  
Presente.org  
Progressive Change Campaign Committee  
Public Citizen  
RootsAction.org  
The Rootstrikers Project at Demand Progress  
Strong Economy For All Coalition  
Working Families Party