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684128

**THE WHITE HOUSE
DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AND TRACKING
WORKSHEET**



DATE RECEIVED: 1/19/2006

CASE ID: 684128

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA

FG011

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN AND DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE PRESIDENT DECISION TO INSTALL ELLEN SAUERBREY THROUGH A RECESS APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR REFUGEES, POPULATION AND MIGRATION

ROUTE TO: AGENCY/OFFICE	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
		CODE	DATE	TYPE RESPONSE	CODE	COMPLETED
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	CANDI WOLFF	ORG	1/20/2006			C
ACTION COMMENTS:						
DEPARTMENT OF STATE		A	1/20/2006	AF	AF	2/3/06 ^{DF}
ACTION COMMENTS:						
PRESIDENTIAL PERSONNEL	KATJA BULLOCK	A	1/20/2006			
ACTION COMMENTS:						
ACTION COMMENTS:						
ACTION COMMENTS:						

COMMENTS:

MEDIA: FAX

USER CODE:

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BY
ORM**

ACTION CODES:		DISPOSITION		
A - APPROPRIATE ACTION B - RESEARCH AND REPORT BACK D - DRAFT RESPONSE I - INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY R - DIRECT REPLY W/ COPY	TYPE RESPONSE:	DISPOSITION CODES:	COMPLETED DATE:	
	TYPE RESPONSE = INITIALS OF SIGNER NRN = NO RESPONSE NEEDED	A - ANSWERED/ ACKNOWLEDGED C - CLOSED X - INTERIM REPLY	COMPLETED = DATE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR CLOSE-OUT DATE (MM/DD/YY)	

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684128

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

FEB - 3 2006

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your letter of January 6 to the President regarding his decision to appoint Ellen Sauerbrey to be Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM). The White House has asked us to respond on its behalf.

The President and Secretary Rice have every confidence in Ms. Sauerbrey's ability to effectively lead PRM. Assistant Secretary Sauerbrey has years of valuable experience working at the United Nations on women's and human rights issues. This experience, her extensive professional work with vulnerable populations including refugees and conflict victims around the world, and her services in the Maryland House of Delegates, is further testament to her superb qualifications for this position.

Over the years, Congress has demonstrated strong bipartisan support for the humanitarian assistance and refugee admissions programs managed by PRM. We look forward to continuing to work with you and others in the Congress on these vitally important programs.

Please feel free to contact us further on this or any matter of concern to you.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey T. Bergner
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable
Barack Obama,
United States Senate.

40-6025 7

**THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE
REFERRAL**

January 20, 2006

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED: APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 684128

MEDIA: FAX

DOCUMENT DATE: JANUARY 06, 2006

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: BARACK OBAMA
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN AND DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE PRESIDENT
DECISION TO INSTALL ELLEN SAUERBREY THROUGH A RECESS
APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR REFUGEES, POPULATION AND MIGRATION

COMMENTS:

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-2590.

RETURN **ORIGINAL** CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO: DOCUMENT TRACKING UNIT, ROOM 84, OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 6, 2006

ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

684128

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my grave concern and disappointment over your decision to install Ellen Sauerbrey through a recess appointment to the post of Assistant Secretary of State for Refugees, Population and Migration. As a result of this decision, there will be no further Senate debate on her nomination. For a position of such critical importance, this is simply unacceptable.

The head of this State Department bureau is responsible for overseeing a budget of close to \$1 billion and coordinating with private relief groups and other international organizations, including the United Nations, to get adequate food, protection, and other crucial aid to refugee camps. This post has typically been filled by individuals with extensive experience in precisely these areas. Ms. Sauerbrey lacks the credentials and qualifications of her predecessors in this position and, according to the *New York Times*, has "zero experience" in working on these problems.

This bureau currently faces several major challenges, including protecting refugees in the Darfur region of Sudan, and survivors of the Pakistani earthquake. In addition to the humanitarian stakes of these refugee crises, the national security stakes of this job could not be higher; it is no secret that refugee camps are increasingly becoming conduits for recruitment by international terrorist organizations. These high stakes demand our most effective response. I am simply not confident that Ms. Sauerbrey is up to this task.

It is unfortunate that you have neglected the Senate's advice and consent role and installed Ms. Sauerbrey through a recess appointment. I urge you to reconsider this decision.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

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2006 JAN 24 A 9:15
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