

Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget
Ms. Shalanda Young
Nominee to be Director, Office of Management and Budget
February 1, 2022

Chairman Sanders, Ranking Member Graham, and Members of the Committee—

Thank you for the opportunity to testify as President Biden’s nominee for Director of the Office of Management and Budget. It’s been my honor to serve as the Acting Director of OMB these past 10 months. And I am grateful to the President for the trust he has put in me with this nomination.

When I first came before the Committee last March, I told you a little bit about my experience growing up in rural Louisiana. I talked about my years leading the House Appropriations Committee as its top staffer, serving this institution that I care about so deeply. And I made a commitment to you: that I would focus my service at OMB on restoring regular order, partnering with Congress in a spirit of bipartisanship and mutual respect, and delivering results for the American people.

Over the past 10 months, I have kept that commitment—working alongside the extraordinary team at OMB, and with members of this Committee from both sides of the aisle. I’d like to briefly highlight just five of OMB’s achievements that showcase what our team is capable of with the partnership of the Senate and this Committee.

First, together with Congress, we delivered crucial disaster relief funding for communities across the country—not only to respond to Hurricane Ida and last year’s devastating wildfires, but to address unmet recovery needs from Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Working with FEMA, we announced nearly five billion dollars last year to help communities prepare for and respond to extreme weather events. And with the help of Congress, we secured another 4.5 billion dollars through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to further build community resilience.

Second, we worked with members of both parties to help develop and enact the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including permanently authorizing the FAST-41 law, something I committed to helping get done during my confirmation hearings in March. And OMB is focused on implementing this law with the highest level of effectiveness and accountability.

Third, we stood up a new Made in America Office that has already facilitated billions of dollars in new purchases to support American manufacturing. The office has brought unprecedented transparency to the waiver review process—important progress that matters to many of us in this room. I am grateful that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law expanded Made-in-America requirements to all Federal infrastructure funding and codified this office in OMB—and that it will continue its work in future administrations.

Fourth, we took action to make the Federal Government more efficient, effective, and accountable to the public. Those steps include OMB’s work to implement a new Executive Order

to streamline government services and improve customer experience, as well as much-needed progress on investing in IT modernization across the Federal Government.

And finally, in keeping with the President's long-standing commitment to oversight, we directed agencies to focus on two important areas: restoring the integrity and independence of their Inspectors General, and working with Congress to ensure that IGs can fulfill their mandate.

I know that there are legitimate differences in this country—and in this room—that deserve honest debate, and I've appreciated the opportunity to speak directly with many of you about them.

If confirmed, I will continue to work closely with you and your colleagues to deliver for the American people. And I will continue to find common ground, to be responsive, and to rebuild the career staff at OMB who play an essential role in ensuring our Government works for all Americans.

Chairman Sanders, Ranking Member Graham, and other Members of the Committee, thank you again for allowing me to appear here today. I'm looking forward to your questions.

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