

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from Marcus Hill, President of the Senior Executives Association, on Reports of Imminent Schedule Policy/Career Rule Finalization

The Senior Executives Association (SEA) is concerned by recent press reports indicating that the Administration is in the final stages of issuing a Schedule Policy/Career rule and may not have sufficiently considered the extensive input provided by career leaders, good-government organizations, and the public.

SEA has been consistent and unequivocal on this issue: any framework that expands the use of excepted service categories for career positions risks politicizing the federal workforce and undermining the merit-based civil service system that has served the nation well for more than a century. As SEA noted in earlier statements on Schedule F, the combination of broad discretion and limited procedural protections creates opportunities for misuse and weakens the safeguards that keep federal decision-making objective, credible, and grounded in law.

Nothing in these new reports changes that fundamental concern. While SEA supports modernizing civil service processes, we have also warned that narrowing due-process standards or expanding excepted appointments, particularly without broad stakeholder engagement, can erode trust and invite instability across agencies.

The significance of the issue to our members, and the pending issuance of a final rule that is likely imminent, compels us to reiterate the concerns career executives have raised consistently: changes of this magnitude must strengthen, not weaken, the integrity and independence of the civil service.

SEA will review the final rule when it is released and will continue working with Congress, OPM, and stakeholders to ensure that any reforms uphold merit-system principles, protect due process, and maintain the essential value the SES and career federal workforce provide in serving the Administration and the American people.

About the Senior Executives Association

The Senior Executives Association (SEA) is a professional association representing Senior Executive Service members and other career federal executives. Founded in 1980, SEA's goals are to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity of the federal government; to advance the professionalism and advocate the interests of career federal executives; and to enhance public recognition of their contributions. For more information, visit www.seniorexecs.org.