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SEA Statement on Executive Actions by President Trump on Politicizing the SES, Federal Workforce

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Marcus Hill, President of the Senior Executives Association (SEA)—representing the interests of over 8,000 career federal executives in the Senior Executive Service (SES), Senior Level (SL), Scientific and Professional (ST) and equivalent positions and other senior career federal leaders, - released the following statement reacting to the executive actions by President Trump on [Restoring Accountability for Career Senior Executives](#) and [Restoring Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions within the Federal Workforce](#).

“The Senior Executives Association (SEA) supports actions to ensure that members of the SES and equivalent executive classifications are accountable for carrying out the priorities of the Administration in office, the mission of their agency, and the Constitution. SEA stands ready to work with leaders across the Trump Administration to support an accountable executive workforce, as well as a more accountable Federal workforce across the Board. SEA understands the importance of an executive branch in which career executives work for leaders in their agencies who have been appointed by the President, many of whom are also confirmed by the Senate.”

“At the same time, the SEA has long advocated the value of SES/ST/SL leaders who provide independent and objective advice in developing and implementing policy. This can help the Trump Administration to design and deliver effective and efficient policies and programs that reflect Presidential priorities and statutory requirements. SEA strongly recommends that new Administration leaders work with, rather than against, experienced career agency executives to achieve this goal.”

“Through the bipartisan Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, Congress created the Senior Executive Service to improve career/non-career relations and management within the executive branch. Congress specifically created a pay-for-performance system by which executives would be held responsible for individual and organizational performance, but provided SES with civil service protections to support the ability of executives to provide candid advice and counsel to agency political leaders. The recent Presidential orders, if implemented, would change this carefully drawn, bipartisan balance that has long supported Administrations of both parties in serving the public.”

“For over 40 years, SEA has advocated for policies to improve the federal workforce and ensure civil servants are best prepared and supported to serve any presidential administration and the American people. The association has for years advocated for policies to address federal employee conduct and

performance, update federal hiring rules, improve customer service, streamline and rationalize government, better develop managers and leaders, and more. SEA, a nonpartisan professional association which is comprised of bipartisan members, stands ready to work with the Trump administration and Congress to advance thoughtful ideas about government and civil service modernization, just as we stand prepared to defend our members and the apolitical delivery of government services for the American people.”

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The Senior Executives Association (SEA) is a professional association representing Senior Executive Service members and other career Federal leaders. 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.