Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget
Mr. Biniam Gebre
Nominee to be Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Office of
Management and Budget
May 19, 2022

Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Portman and Members of the Committee—

I am humbled to come before you as President Biden's nominee for Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy at the Office of Management and Budget. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve this great country.

First and foremost, I'd like to thank you Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Portman, and all the members of this distinguished Committee for considering my nomination.

I'd also like to thank Steven Zottoli and Dorothy Zottoli, of Woods Hole Massachusetts, who we affectionally call Dr. Z and Mama Z, for their unwavering support through the years since I met them when I was 19 years old at Williams College.

I'd like to thank my father-in-law, Mr. Ronald Hines, for his years of military service and being an inspirational figure; my mother-in-law, Yong Hines, for her unwavering commitment to the health of our family; and my mother, Hiwet Sahle, who raised me as a single mom.

I'm grateful to my immediate family, who are here with me today, for their support. My wife, Patricia Hines, whose brilliance I could never match. My two exceptionally gifted girls who call me the nerdiest nerd they know—a badge I wear with pride as we discuss procurement policy in this hearing.

And most importantly, I'd like to thank the American people and this country for the chances and opportunities I have been given. I was brought into this country as a refugee at the age of nine. This country took me in with open arms, putting food on my table, clothes on my back, and a roof over my head. I've been so grateful ever since, and see this as an opportunity to help others as others have helped me.

This country, this government took a chance on me, gave me opportunities beyond my wildest expectation and public service is my contribution to paying it forward. For more than two decades, I have worked with for-profit organizations, non-profits, foundations, and government agencies, and in a range of industries—from financial services, to housing, to agriculture. I have tackled issues ranging from organizational effectiveness, employee engagement, data analytics, artificial intelligence, digital modernization, and of course procurement and supply chain optimization.

I have provided leadership on a number of procurement topics including improving procurement processes, optimizing distribution networks, negotiating contracts, and implementing technology that improves procurement. I did this first during my time consulting with large companies, second as a government executive in the Obama-Biden Administration at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and third as a service provider to government. This experience has given me a multi-dimensional perspective of the federal acquisition system.

I have a deep appreciation for the scale and complexity of the federal marketplace, and I know first-hand the importance of an efficient and effective acquisition system. I also understand how technological innovation and changing workforce dynamics can impact the procurement system.

If confirmed, I would be honored to work with Congress, the team in the Office of Federal Procurement Policy and across the Office of Management and Budget, and leaders across the acquisition system with the aim of maximizing returns on every dollar spent on behalf of the American people.

Thank you again for considering my nomination, and I look forward to answering your questions.