

**Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson**  
**Nominations Hearing for Mr. Paul J. Ray to be Administrator of the Office of Information**  
**and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget**  
**December 4, 2019**

*As prepared for delivery:*

This hearing has been called to consider the nomination of Mr. Paul Ray to become the next Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) at the Office of Management and Budget. In my meetings with Mr. Ray, I have always been impressed with his knowledge, commitment, and suitability to this particular position. He uniquely enjoys the challenge of working with government regulations. To me, his enthusiasm for the position, combined with an exceptional education and career background make him the perfect candidate for this job. Record me as strongly supporting his confirmation.

The Role of the OIRA Administrator

While often referred to as the administration's "regulatory czar," the OIRA Administrator manages the Office's execution of a diverse set of statutorily-prescribed and presidentially-directed responsibilities related to the regulatory process. Congress established OIRA in 1980 as a part of the Paperwork Reduction Act, a law intended to reduce burdensome and duplicative paperwork requirements imposed by regulatory agencies on the public. OIRA responsibilities have evolved to include developing and overseeing the implementation of government-wide policies related to information, privacy, and statistical policy; conducting cost-benefit analysis of so-called "significant" proposed and final rules as well as "economically significant" rules—defined as regulatory actions that will result in an estimated \$100 million or more annual impact on the economy; implementing the Information Quality Act; coordinating retrospective review of regulations; and improving regulatory cooperation with the United States' key trading partners.

The Nominee for OIRA Administrator—Mr. Paul Ray

Having led OIRA as its Acting Administrator as well as its Associate Administrator since May of 2018, Mr. Ray has demonstrated the ability to carry out the Office's multi-faceted mission. In addition to his direct leadership experience at OIRA, he currently serves as Senior Advisor to the Director of Regulatory Affairs where he advises on regulations and the regulatory process. He also previously served as Counselor to the Secretary of Labor where he advised on regulatory issues and the rulemaking process.

Prior to these public service roles, Mr. Ray was as an associate at Sidley Austin, LLP, and he served as a law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito and Judge Debra Livingston of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Mr. Ray graduated *magna cum laude* from Hillsdale College and Harvard Law School.