

Statement of
Senator Susan M. Collins

Nomination of Jeffrey Zients to be Deputy Director for
Management at the Office of Management and Budget

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
June 10, 2009



For our second panel, the Committee welcomes Jeffrey Zients, President Obama's nominee to serve as the next Deputy Director for Management at the Office of Management and Budget. If confirmed, Mr. Zients will also serve as the government's first Chief Performance Officer.

Although OMB is better known for its budget responsibilities, it has a two-pronged mission. In addition to overseeing the preparation and implementation of the federal budget, OMB oversees federal procurement, financial management, information technology, and regulatory policies across the executive branch.

The management challenges that OMB faces are extremely important. Effective management can help to ensure that agencies are carrying out their responsibilities in the most cost-effective manner. Good management can save tax dollars and lead to better results.

A major OMB responsibility is the oversight of approximately \$71 billion in spending on information technology investments. It is unacceptable that federal agencies have identified approximately 450 IT projects, totaling more than \$26 billion for fiscal year 2009, as poorly planned, poorly performing, or both.

Senator Carper and I have introduced a bill, which this Committee reported favorably, that would improve agency performance and oversight of federal IT projects. I look forward to hearing how Mr. Zients would work to

prevent future cost, schedule, and performance problems.

I also look forward to hearing Mr. Zients's views on how OMB can continue to provide effective oversight and implementation of Recovery Act spending.

Mr. Zients comes before the Committee with twenty years of business experience as a CEO, management consultant, and entrepreneur. He will need to call on all this experience if he is to serve effectively as the Deputy Director for OMB and Chief Performance Officer.

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