

STATEMENT OF HOWARD SHELANSKI

**Nominee to Serve As Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs,
Office of Management and Budget**

**UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

June 12, 2013

Thank you Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Coburn, and Members of the Committee for welcoming me today. It is an honor to be considered by this committee as the President's nominee to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

I would like to start off this morning by thanking my family for their support in taking on this challenge. I am glad to have Nicole Soulanille, our son Isaac Shelanski, and my parents Vivien and Michael Shelanski here with me today.

I also want to thank the Members of the Committee and their staffs for meeting with me over the last few weeks. I appreciate the time many of you took from your busy schedules and thank you for sharing your insights and views as I prepared for this hearing. For those of you I have not yet had the opportunity to meet, I look forward to doing so in the future. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and maintaining open communications. I would welcome your perspectives on the matters with which OIRA is concerned.

The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, often referred to as OIRA, plays an essential role in developing and overseeing the implementation of Government-wide policies on regulation, information collection, information quality and technology, statistical standards, scientific evidence, and privacy. I am humbled by my nomination to lead such an important organization.

I would like to begin by speaking briefly about my background, and about the training and experience that have helped to prepare me for the job of OIRA Administrator, should I be confirmed. I have a Ph.D in economics and a law degree, and have spent my career combining both disciplines. I joined the faculty of Georgetown University Law School in 2011, after having previously been a professor at the University of California at Berkeley since 1997. At Berkeley I also served three years as Associate Dean of the law school and was co-director of the Berkeley Center for Law and Technology. Most of my teaching and research have focused on regulation, particularly in the telecommunications sector, and on antitrust policy. In this work I have had the opportunity to analyze complex issues and their effects upon society, ranging from the virtues of switching to a less rule-based model of telecommunications regulation, to how antitrust enforcement can better accommodate and promote technological innovation.

I have also served in several Government positions. Currently, I am the Director of the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Economics, where I previously served as Deputy Director from 2009 to 2011. Other Government positions I have held include Chief Economist

of the Federal Communications Commission and Senior Economist at the Council of Economic Advisers. In these roles, I successfully worked with other agencies, the Congress, and the public in an effort to serve the American people.

I have also practiced law, focusing on regulatory and antitrust matters, and at the start of my career I spent time in the Judicial Branch of Government as a law clerk to Judges appointed by Presidents of both parties. I had the honor of clerking for the late Judge Louis Pollak, for Judge Stephen Williams, and for Justice Antonin Scalia.

From my past experience in Government, and from having worked for judges across the ideological spectrum, I learned the importance relying on sound evidence and rigorous analysis to make decisions, and of developing good working relationships with people of varying viewpoints and backgrounds to achieve collective goals. If confirmed as Administrator, I would draw from my own experiences and rely on the expertise and insights of the career staff at OIRA and the Agencies, others in the Administration, the Congress, and public participants in the regulatory process to fulfill OIRA's mandates. I believe that public involvement and transparency in regulation is critically important as we tackle the complex issues that our country and world face today.

If confirmed, I would look forward to working with this Committee and the Congress on these important matters. Thank you for your time this morning, and I look forward to answering your questions.