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Transparent and Accountable"
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Chairman Carper, Senator McCain, and Members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you today.

Since the first day of his Administration, President Obama has been committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in government, working to ensure the public trust through establishing a system of transparency, public participation and collaboration.

As Assistant to the President, Chief Technology Officer, and Associate Director for Technology in the Office of Science and Technology Policy, I am pleased to provide an update on these efforts and the Administration's Open Government Initiative. This update builds upon the Open Government Progress Report to the American People that was published in December of 2009.

The Open Government Initiative is representative of the effort that I am focused on to harness the power and potential of technology, data and innovation to transform the nation's economy and improve the lives of everyday Americans.

I. Open Government Progress

In December, OMB Director Peter Orszag published the President's Open Government Directive to hardwire accountability, access, and public participation into government operations. The development of the Directive demonstrated in practice our commitment to public participation, when over the course of a month-long pilot initiative held in the summer of 2009, we were able to demonstrate the benefits of emerging technologies such as blogs, wikis, and "crowdsourced" ideas platforms. We attracted more than one thousand ideas and blog posts directly from the American people that informed our approach to open government.

The Directive established an aggressive timeline for the federal government to meet specific milestones toward greater openness, and we are pleased that the federal government has responded enthusiastically, hitting key milestones in January and February of this year. These milestones included the publication of at least three new, high-value data sets on Data.gov and the creation of open-government websites on each agency website. In conjunction with these efforts, we are also adopting new technologies that, subject to valid requirements pertaining to security, privacy, and confidential, will help promote open government.

In addition, the Directive charged the Office of Management and Budget with developing – within 90 days – a framework for how agencies can use challenges, prizes and other incentive-backed strategies to find innovative or cost-effective solutions to improving open government. Even before the development of this framework, agencies such as DARPA and NASA, the Department of Energy, and the Department of State have been using challenges and prizes to tap into the collective wisdom of the American people and find innovative solutions to some of our country's most difficult challenges. On March 8th, OMB issued the new "Guidance on the Use of Challenges and Prizes to Promote Open Government", "strongly encouraging" agencies to proactively leverage these under-utilized policy tools to promote open government, innovation, and other national priorities."

Before the ink had dried on the new OMB Guidance on Prizes and Challenges, the First Lady announced a prize to enlist top innovators in the fight to end childhood obesity. In a speech before the National Parent Teacher Association, First Lady Michelle Obama announced the launch of the *Apps for Healthy Kids* competition, the latest component of the *Let's Move!* campaign. The initiative grew out of an OSTP-led Open Government rollout in December, where USDA made nutritional data available for free download on Data.gov. *Apps for Healthy Kids* challenges game developers and software developers to leverage these data to develop innovative, fun, and engaging tools and games that help kids and their parents to eat better and be more physically active. In a letter to the 17,000 attendees of the Game Developers Conference 2010, the First Lady recognized that the Federal Government cannot end childhood obesity by working alone. "You know better than most the power of games to deeply engage our Nation's youth," the First Lady wrote. "Today I am asking you to dedicate your creative energy and skills to address one of America's biggest challenges and help make healthy living fun, exciting, and relevant for kids."

The Directive also called for both me and the Federal Chief Information Officer, my colleague Vivek Kundra, to create an Open Government Dashboard. The Dashboard tracks agency progress on five deliverables set out in the Directive: 1. Publication of High-Value Data Sets; 2. Data Integrity; 3. Creation of "Open" Webpages; 4. Public Consultation and Feedback; and 5. Development of Open Government Plans. Most government agencies have met expectations on the first four deliverables and the fifth deliverable, open government plans, will be due on April 7th. These plans will contain five components: 1. Transparency, including records management and FOIA; 2.

Participation; 3. Collaboration; 4. Agency flagship initiatives; and 5.Public and Agency Involvement.

When we unveiled the Dashboard on February 9th, we also indicated that we had a unique opportunity to encourage agencies to go above and beyond in completing the development of Open Government Plans. To guide agencies and encourage a race to the top, a series of "Leading Practices" has been developed. Agencies can be recognized on the Dashboard for "Leading Practices" in up to four areas: 1. Leadership, Governance and Culture Change; 2. Transparency; 3. Participation and Collaboration; and 4. An Agency's Flagship Initiative.

In addition to these initiatives being undertaken by the federal government, independent efforts are also underway to develop technology platforms to support open government. The American Association for the Advancement of Science announced last fall the launch of Expert Labs, an effort that uses technology to assist citizens in providing input to the federal government. Aimed at leveraging social networking technologies to tackle a wide range of public policy challenges, these technology platforms would tap into expertise from scientists, technologists and the public at large. These technologies have tremendous potential to help tap into the collective expertise of our country to solve some of society's biggest challenges, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy has committed to pilot potential science and technology test cases to further these efforts.

II. Open Government for National Priorities

The principles of open government – accountability, access, and public participation – are also being applied to national priorities to improve the development of government policy. In the areas that I will highlight today, improvements to government policies will result in demonstrated benefits to the American people.

Innovation

Innovation is one of these priorities, serving as a foundation for the economy by fostering new jobs, new businesses and new industries. Building upon the President's Strategy for American Innovation that was released last September, I am pleased to announce that the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) will begin providing data on awardees in the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program that utilize a streamlined process for contracting, and will extend this streamlined process to future SBIR solicitations. The SBIR program is one of the major Federal government programs used to support innovative technologies in America – yet the paperwork is cumbersome, lengthy and time consuming. These new steps represent a significant improvement – think of this as the 1040 EZ for federal government innovation grants. Initially, DARPA will display data on the number of awardees that are eligible for this streamlined process, how many awardees opted to utilize this process, and the average number of days it took to complete the streamlined agreement. In addition, the next round of DARPA's SBIR

solicitations, scheduled for April 21st, will for the first time announce the wide availability of this streamlined option.

Typically contracting would take from 5 to 6 months to complete, but we believe that the streamlined approach will take on average less than 60 days. This represents a 60 to 70% reduction in the time and cost, saving small businesses tens of thousands of dollars and letting them get to work months faster.

By taking these steps, the Federal government is matching young, innovative companies responsible for creating new technologies, new jobs and America's future economic growth with federal funding that meets their needs.

Energy

Open government is also helping our country meet the future energy needs of America. Between February 23rd and March 12th, in conjunction with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), we held the Smart Grid Forum, an on-line forum focused on the nation's energy consumers with an emphasis on spurring innovation in smart grid products and services. We invited our country to contribute their solutions to some of the most challenging smart grid goals that we have – from deployment of smart grid solutions, to development of standards needed for information exchange, to ensuring cybersecurity in the smart grid.

We received comments from over 130 individuals and organizations that were viewed over 5000 times in three topic areas: data architecture, data access and ownership, and appliance standards. This input will be used to inform the Administration's efforts to enable deployment of a Smart Grid that will benefit consumers, utilities, and communities – as well as to help us achieve our national goals for energy and the environment.

Education

Improving our nation's education system and how we educate future Americans is a challenge also being met by open government. On February 15th, Education Secretary Arne Duncan announced the launch of the Open Innovation Web Portal, bringing together key stakeholders in education, including those who previously had little voice or way to elevate their idea, to share innovative ideas and collaborate to turn those ideas into reality. The Open Innovation Web Portal is a trial initiative that has engaged many stakeholders in education – teachers, school administrators, parents, foundations, nonprofit organizations, and the American public – to develop the innovations the country will need to meet President Obama's goal to be the nation with the highest percentage of college-education citizens. The Department of Education has posted an initial set of challenges to engage the community around the department's priorities, including human capital and data.

The Department of Education has also released a draft National Education Technology Plan in early March, presenting a model of 21st century learning powered by technology that is focused on five areas: learning, assessment, teaching, infrastructure and productivity. In releasing this draft, the Department of Education has committed to engaging all stakeholders by encouraging stakeholders to submit comments online on every section of the Plan.

III. A New Vision for Open Government

Today, we can see examples of how open government initiatives are transforming the very nature of our government, and how the government interacts with the public at large.

The Department of Veterans Affairs demonstrates this potential. An Innovation Initiative website, in collaboration with the Office of Science and Technology Policy, was recently launched for the Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) to allow employees to participate in improving the performance of VBA.

One example of the participation that occurred is the experience of Todd Bonn. Todd is a dedicated Veteran Service Representative from VBA's regional office in Togus, Maine. He was concerned that certain performance metrics for service representatives did not align well to the Agency's goals of reducing the notorious claims backlog. So, when Todd heard about President Obama's challenge to "think out of the box" and dramatically improve claims processing, he decided this was the opportunity to not only identify the problem, but to propose a solution – a solution he submitted to the Innovation Initiative website.

Todd wasn't alone in his participation: VBA received over three thousand ideas, and six thousand comments, from seven thousand participants. These ideas were collected from around the country, and top managers at each of VBA's 57 Regional Offices, including Todd's leaders in Togus, Maine, nominated one or two ideas for consideration by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The national leadership chose seventeen to prepare "business plan" proposals for consideration by a panel of national leaders that included Craig Newmark from Craigslist.

The final panel selected ten ideas to be implemented immediately, and that's what you've been reading about in the papers recently. In fact, VA has launched their second innovation competition – this one focused on health informatics – and they are in the final stages of preparing their third competition this summer, which will include private sector participation.

Here's the best part: Todd's winning idea, recognized in a ceremony by Secretary Shinseki, only requires a little time to reprogram a performance database, and doesn't cost the government any money. VA anticipates seeing a fully functional implementation of his idea this summer. Todd's idea is yet another way that the Administration is

meeting the challenge of defeating the backlog, and lowering the average days to complete claims.

The Federal Communications Commission also demonstrates this potential. Through a new website, at reboot.fcc.gov, the FCC is actively soliciting input on improvements both internally from employees and from the public at large. In creating the National Broadband Plan, the FCC held more than 36 public workshops with more than 350 expert panelists from government, the private and non-profit sectors, and academia, and streamed these workshops online, reaching more than 10,000 people who either attended in person or online. Through extensive use of social media, including communication with its 330,000 Twitter followers (the third most of any federal agency), 130 blog posts, and a crowd sourcing platform, more than 450 ideas for the Plan were submitted to the FCC, generating more than 7,500 comments and 37,000 votes, all online. These efforts were further refined with a data collection process of 31 public notices, generating 23,000 comments and roughly 74,000 pages of public record. These numbers demonstrate the tremendous amount of citizen engagement – but the numbers don't tell the whole story: the end result was the National Broadband Plan that was released last week.

Times of crisis also demonstrate this potential. In response to the earthquake in Haiti, the State Department worked with public and private organizations including Ushahidi, FrontlineSMS, InSTEDD and the Government of Haiti to establish an emergency text messaging service called "Mission 4636". This effort demonstrated the power of crowdsourcing and distributed technology networks by allowing Haitian survivors to report their needs and location on their cell phones. This service also pushed vital news and information to survivors, and allowed a global network of volunteers to provide real time translation of Creole into English and other languages – with more than 14 countries involved in translations – and most responses occurring within 10 minutes. The 4636 SMS code at its peak responded to over 10,000 requests daily, and today is being managed and run by Haitians.

In conclusion, open government is being used to tackle and address some of the many policy challenges that our nation faces today, helping to build a 21st century government and a 21st century economy for our country.

I welcome any questions that the Committee may have.