

FOIA Request Letter

State Department FOIA <noreply@state.gov>

Wed 4/16/2014 9:19 AM

to: Scoville, Ryan <ryan.scoville@marquette.edu>;

Thank you for filing your FOIA request online on 4/16/2014. Here is a review of your request.

The records I request can be described as follows:

Copies of all "certificates of demonstrated competency," a document created for each ambassadorial nominee to comply with the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. § 3944), for each ambassadorial nominee from January 1, 1980 until the present. These records exist because "[t]he President shall provide the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, with each nomination for an appointment as a chief of mission, a report on the demonstrated competence of that nominee to perform the duties of the position in which he or she is to serve." 22 U.S.C. § 3944(a)(4).

The time period of my request is from 01/01/1980 to present

I am affiliated with an educational or noncommercial scientific institution seeking information for a scholarly or scientific purpose and not for commercial use. Additional documentation will be required.

I am willing to pay \$100 for my request.

I request a waiver of all fees for this request.

Reason: These "certificates of demonstrated competency" will be used to inform the public about the criteria used to determine whether ambassadorial nominees are qualified. The certificates will also help to inform the public on the extent to which the President has complied with 22 U.S.C. 3944(a)(4). Additionally, there is no commercial interest in this information, and it will be used exclusively for academic research purposes.

My additional comments are as follows:

In March 2014, the State Department complied with a similar but more limited request by the American Foreign Service Association. Additionally, the Obama Administration has agreed to make available to the public certificates of demonstrated competency for all future ambassadorial nominees. The present request simply builds on these recent developments.

Contact Information

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