

United States Senate

December 17, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
President-Elect of the United States of America
Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Project
Washington, DC 20270

Dear President-Elect Obama:

I am writing this letter to recommend Karen Dunning for a senior managerial position in your administration. She has a particular interest in the Small Business Administration, but her qualifications would also extend to any position dealing with entrepreneurial development. What sets Karen apart from others is the fact that she has experience at many different levels – with private enterprise, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations alike.

Karen's business skills were formed at IBM, where she specialized in the finance industry, and were later honed by running and growing her own multi-million-dollar businesses, Data Source Media and Business Media, Inc. These companies were named to *Inc.* magazine's 500 Fastest Growing Privately Owned Businesses on four separate occasions.

Named Nebraska Entrepreneur of the Year in 1995, Karen was invited to attend a meeting at the Clinton White House with other business owners. She was also the only Nebraska business owner invited to attend a White House Summit held in Chicago the following year. When I served as Governor of Nebraska, she was a member of my CEO Roundtable. She also participated in a trade mission to Japan, Hong Kong and China.

Karen has helped many nonprofit organizations, including the Nebraska Arts Council, Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission, Planned Parenthood, and RSAC (Rape and Sexual Abuse Center), in addition to raising funds for entrepreneurial training workshops for young girls.

Upon selling her business interests and moving to California, Karen then worked as a consultant for two Bay-area dot.com companies. She has been politically involved for many years and sings for charity and political events.

I believe Karen Dunning is an individual who would help make our federal government more efficient and responsive. She has the passion and long-range vision necessary to evaluate a situation, build a consensus, and implement a plan for improvement and results. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-224-6551.

Sincerely,



E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

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