



## Presidential Cabinet Political Commentary Update

By Michael Feehly

### Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency Lisa Jackson

Lisa Jackson, formerly the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and Chief of Staff to the Governor of New Jersey, was confirmed as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency on January 23, 2009. She is the first African-American, second New Jerseyan and fourth woman to hold this position. Her main objectives as EPA Administrator are to regulate and monitor exposure to nitrogen *dioxide* and smog, and to reduce emissions of *carbon dioxide* through the *Clean Air Act*. Jackson believes new regulations will benefit public health, especially in polluted areas and cities with high populations and environmental hazards, such as New Orleans and Baton Rouge in the state of Louisiana. Jackson's efforts to regulate *carbon emissions* and *greenhouse gasses* as pollutants under the *Clean Air Act* have been both supported and heavily criticized. In 2007, The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in *Massachusetts v. EPA* that the Environmental Protection Agency did have the authority to regulate carbon under the *Clean Air Act*. However, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AL) has proposed a Senate resolution in opposition to Jackson's plans for regulation; Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AK) and Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) have agreed to cosponsor Senator Murkowski's legislation which would block the EPA's plan to regulate carbon emissions.

"Senators oppose EPA on greenhouse gases." Delta Farm Press. (1/28/10) <http://deltafarmpress.com/legislative/greenhouse-gases-0128/> Retrieved January 30, 2010.

"As Senate Climate Bill Languishes, Lobbyists Press EPA on Carbon Regs." New York Times. (1/12/10) <http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/01/12/12greenwire-as-senate-climate-bill-languishes-lobbyists-pr-15488.html?pagewanted=3> Retrieved January 30, 2010.

"Justices Say E.P.A. Has Power to Act on Harmful Gases." New York Times. (4/3/07) <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/03/washington/03scotus.html?ex=1333339200&en=e0d0a1497263d879&ei=5124&partner=permalink&exprod=permalink> Retrieved January 30, 2009.

"EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson says nitrogen dioxide rule will help poor communities." The Times-Picayune (New Orleans, Louisiana). [http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2010/01/epa\\_administrator\\_lisa\\_jackson.html](http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2010/01/epa_administrator_lisa_jackson.html) Retrieved January 30, 2010.

### Ambassador to the UN Susan Rice

Susan Rice, who was the Director for International Organizations and Peacekeeping, Special Assistant to the President, Senior Director for African Affairs, and Assistant Secretary

of State under the Clinton Administration, was nominated to be United States Ambassador to the United Nations and unanimously confirmed on January 22, 2009. Susan Rice has been criticized in the United States for her frequent absences from council meetings and votes on resolutions. Journalists and Bloggers have accused Rice of "hanging out at the White House and not engaging seriously in New York." Critics cite analysis conducted by *Security Council Report*, a think-tank affiliated with Columbia University, which demonstrated a sharp decline in the number of resolutions passed by the UN Security Council. From 2008 to 2009, resolutions declined by 26%, leaving 2009 with the lowest number of resolutions passed since 1991. However, Rice and her supporters, as well as *Security Council Report*, note an improved and cordial mood at the UN. Rice believes she has committed the US to a "new era of engagement" at the United Nations, and cites accomplishments, such as increased *sanctions* on North Korea, talks on *Nuclear Disarmament*, and the global humanitarian response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

"Obama, Susan Rice and the U.N. — The right approach or too cuddly?." Reuters Global News Journal. <http://blogs.reuters.com/global/2010/01/27/obama-susan-rice-and-the-u-n-the-right-approach-or-too-cuddly/> (1/27/10) Retrieved January 30, 2010.

*Security Council Report: Update Report 22 January 2010 No. 4.* (Report) Security Council Report. ([www.securitycouncilreport.org](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org)). [http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/{65BF9CF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9}/Update%20Report%202022%20January%202010\\_Council%20Statistics.pdf](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/{65BF9CF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9}/Update%20Report%202022%20January%202010_Council%20Statistics.pdf) (1/22/10) Retrieved January 30, 2010.

"New Study Suggests U.S. Ambassador Rice Isn't Engaging the UN." The Huffington Post. (Blog) Richard Grenell. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/richard-grenell/is-susan-rice-doing-her-j\\_b\\_435318.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/richard-grenell/is-susan-rice-doing-her-j_b_435318.html) (1/25/10) Retrieved January 30, 2010.

## **Secretary of Agriculture** **Tom Vilsack**

Tom Vilsack served as Mayor of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, as an Iowa State Senator, and as the Governor of Iowa before being nominated to be Secretary of Agriculture. Vilsack's confirmation was supported by the Corn Refiners Association, the National Grain and Feed Association, the National Farmers Union, the American Farm Bureau Federation, and the Environmental Defense Fund. A few organizations aligned with the organic food lobby raised concerns regarding Vilsack's support for genetically modified foods and larger, industrialized farms. Vilsack's nomination caused relatively little controversy amidst the American public, as it was largely overshadowed by big-name nominations. After a destructive freeze in early January 2010 damaged Florida's crops of citrus, tomatoes, strawberries and nursery plants, Vilsack declared an agricultural disaster, enabling Florida's farmers to receive emergency loans and revenue assistance. On January 26, 2010, Vilsack announced a grant of \$234.5 Million to promote American agricultural products overseas. The money would benefit 70 trade organizations, and will be administered by the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

"Most of Florida declared agricultural disaster after January freeze." The Palm Beach Post. <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/money/most-of-florida-declared-agricultural-disaster-after-january-203885.html> (1/30/10) Retrieved January 30, 2010.

"Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Announces Millions to Promote U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports." (Press Release) United States Department of Agriculture. [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/\\_s.7\\_0\\_A/7\\_0\\_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/01/0033.xml](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/01/0033.xml) (1/26/10) Retrieved January 30, 2010.

## **Secretary of Education Arne Duncan**

Arne Duncan has been involved in the American public education system since he was a student at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. He served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Chicago's public schools for eight years before being nominated for the position of United States Secretary of Education. Duncan has taken initiative in leading Obama's campaign to reform American Public Education at all levels. The Race to the Top initiative and reform of the student loan industry have consumed the majority of his efforts as Secretary thus far.

Race to the Top is a competitive program, wherein states apply for a portion of the \$4.35 billion in federal funds allocated to the program. To receive funds, states must actively reform their worst schools through innovations such as merit pay for teachers and increased access to charter schools. The program, emphasizing competition, reform and increased funding, has garnered bipartisan support. However, critics from the right believe the bill recklessly increases spending; representatives from teachers' unions are opposed to many of the key propositions of Race to the Top, which they believe make unfair demands of teachers.

The effort to reform student loans appears a contentious proposition in the Senate, though it has passed the House already. A key change in student lending would eliminate government subsidies to banks which offer student loans, and replace those subsidies with direct loans to students. This direct investment in students is popular among democrats, but for republicans, the issue is more controversial.

"Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education –Biography." <http://www2.ed.gov/news/staff/bios/duncan.html>

"Race to the Top Must Include Charter School Expansion." St. Louis Post-Dispatch.(Online). <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/editorialcommentary/story/9D70C433A0112999862576C70001B74A?OpenDocument> [2/11/10]

"Arne Duncan urges passage of student loan overhaul bill." USA Today. (Online). [http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2010-02-10-loans10\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2010-02-10-loans10_ST_N.htm) [2/20/10]

## **Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius**

Prior to her confirmation as Secretary of HHS, Sebelius was Governor of the state of Kansas from 2003 until 2009. Her actions as Secretary have been in support of Obama, and have included the 2009 response to the H1N1 flu and providing health care for children through the CHIP program. Sebelius has recently allocated \$100 million in grants to develop new IT infrastructure for CHIP programs in 18 states, which would create electronic pediatric data records to improve efficiency, reduce costs and provide better health care to children covered by CHIP. Sebelius has also vocally responded to the insurance rate increases by Anthem Blue Cross, a private insurer in California, demanding a public accounting. Anthem Blue Cross issued a rate increase of 39 percent, despite profits of \$2.7 billion in the last quarter. Sebelius is viewed as committed to the reduction of wasteful spending, but her stance on the issue of abortion prevents her from receiving republican support.

“Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.” <http://www.hhs.gov/secretarysebelius.html>

“HHS Offers \$100 million to Improve Children’s Health IT.” Health Leaders Media. (Online). <http://www.healthleadersmedia.com/content/TEC-247180/HHS-Offers-100M-to-Improve-Childrens-Health-IT> [2/20/10]

“Sebelius Asks California Insurer to Explain Rate Increases.” The New York Times. (Online Blog). <http://prescriptions.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/02/08/sebelius-asks-calif-insurer-to-explain-rate-hike/> [2/08/10]

## **Secretary of Energy Steven Chu**

Steven Chu, a former Professor of Physics and Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of California, Berkeley and director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, is a Nobel Prize winner in Physics and the twelfth United States Secretary of Energy. Chu is a vocal proponent of a shift from fossil fuels to alternative energy. In order to combat global warming, Chu supports nuclear energy, and believes the new generation of reactors is safe. The Obama administration recently pledged \$8 billion in loans to restart nuclear projects across the US.

“Steven Chu, Autobiography.” [http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/physics/laureates/1997/chu-autobio.html](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/1997/chu-autobio.html)

“Obama Administration to Build more Nuclear Reactors.” Bay Area News. (Online.) <http://www.kcbs.com/bayareanews/Obama-Administration-to-Build-More-Nuclear-Reactor/6407353> [2/10/10]

## **Secretary of Defense**

### **Robert Gates**

Robert Gates is a highly decorated intelligence expert and government official with extensive experience in the fields of defense and education. Gates was nominated on November 8, 2006 by President George W. Bush to be the next United States Secretary of Defense. Gates won unanimous approval in the Senate Armed Services Committee, and was approved by a 95-2 vote in a full vote on the Senate Floor. Along with General Petraeus, Gates is considered as one of the few most responsible for the astounding progress made in Iraq over the past two years. Barack Obama announced on December 1, 2008 that Robert Gates would remain Secretary of Defense, a move that was popular with liberals and conservatives alike. Gate's tenure as Obama's Secretary of Defense as seen him cooperate in a bipartisan fashion on controversial issues, including his support for civilian trials for terror suspects, supported by Attorney General Eric Holder, and the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, a policy which bars gays and lesbians from serving openly in the Armed forces. He has been influential in the buildup of troops in Afghanistan and in an increase to \$150 million in military aid to Yemen to combat insurgent terrorist groups and Al Qaeda affiliates.

"Gates Backs Big Boost in Military Aid to Yemen." Reuters. (Online.) <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61L4L120100222?type=politicsNews> [2/20/10]

"Holder, Gates: Allow terror trials in civil courts." Taiwan News. (Online). [http://www.etaiwannews.com/etn/news\\_content.php?id=1189623&lang=eng\\_news](http://www.etaiwannews.com/etn/news_content.php?id=1189623&lang=eng_news) [2/15/10]

"Military Leaders Back DADT Repeal." Windy City Media Group. (Online.) <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=25668> [2/13/10]

## **Attorney General**

### **Eric Holder**

Eric Holder has extensive experience in the intelligence community, private practice, and in public legal affairs. He served as senior legal adviser and as a member of the vice presidential selection committee for then-Senator Barack Obama before being nominated by President-elect Obama for the position of Attorney General of the United States. Holder's political stance generally has a liberal slant. He believes that waterboarding constitutes torture, leading to some controversy among conservatives who advocate a more aggressive approach towards terror suspect interrogation. Some Republicans are also unhappy with his outspoken criticism of the Patriot Act and the National Security Agency (NSA) surveillance program. Senator Arlen Specter of the Senate Judiciary Committee raised a common concern among Republicans, grilling Holder on his involvement in the pardon of rogue financier Marc Rich during his service under the Clinton Administration. Holder has also come under criticism from the far left wing of the Democratic Party for his harsh views on drug laws and for his defense of an agricultural entity charged with supporting Colombian death squads. Holder was confirmed with a vote of 75-1 on February 2, 2009, and is the first African-American to hold his position.

Recently, Holder has come under fire for the case of the Christmas Day Bomber, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab. The decision to try him in criminal court has angered many on the re-

publican side. Holder defends his decision, and cited the precedent of the Shoe Bomber, Richard Reid. Holder has also recently traveled the country, speaking about the stimulus and police hiring. He believes that the funding for job creation that has increased the number of police officers will lead to an increased effectiveness for law enforcement.

“Meet the Attorney General.” <http://www.justice.gov/ag/meet-ag.html>

“Holder Defends Handling of Abdulmutallab.” CBS News. (Online). <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/02/03/politics/main6170460.shtml> [2/05/10]

“Eric Holder Touts Police Hires As Stimulus Tours Lands in Charlotte.” Politics Daily. (Online). <http://www.politicsdaily.com/2010/02/21/eric-holder-touts-police-hires-as-stimulus-tour-lands-in-charlot/> [2/20/10]

“Holder, Gates: Allow terror trials in civil courts.” Taiwan News. (Online). [http://www.etaiwannews.com/etn/news\\_content.php?id=1189623&lang=eng\\_news](http://www.etaiwannews.com/etn/news_content.php?id=1189623&lang=eng_news) [2/15/10]

## **Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis**

Hilda Solis was elected to five terms in the US House of Representatives, representing her California district from 2001 until 2009. As Secretary of Labor, she is the first Hispanic woman to be appointed to a cabinet level position. Solis has been heavily criticized by Republicans and other conservatives, who disapprove of her positions on sensitive issues such as the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), which eliminates the use of the secret ballot in union elections, a measure vehemently opposed by conservatives. Solis has advanced three important agendas for President Obama: the jobs bills, extension of unemployment benefits and increased protections for immigrant laborers. The program she calls on Congress to support is a \$33 billion dollar small business lending program, which offers tax exemptions of \$5,000 for every worker hired by a small employer; the program is funded by the money repaid by Wall Street banks that received federal bailout money. Solis seeks to augment the unemployment benefits and health insurance for approximately 400,000 workers who will lose their benefits due to extended unemployment. Solis advocates increasing wages and protections for foreign migrant workers under the H-2A visa program. Of the 86,000 workers in the program, nearly all have seen declines in wages of nearly one dollar per hour during the last 8 years.

“New Guest Worker Rules Seek To Increase Wages.” New York Times. (Online). <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/12/us/12farm.html> [2/12/10]

“Solis Seeks Passage of Jobs, Business Plan.” Wall Street Journal. (Online). [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704259304575043170852398794.html?mod=WSJ\\_latestheadlines](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704259304575043170852398794.html?mod=WSJ_latestheadlines) [2/20/10]

“Labor Secretary Hilda Solis Calls For Congress To Extend Jobless Benefits, Create Jobs.” Hispanic Business. (Online). [http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/news/2010/2/26/labor\\_secretary\\_hilda\\_solis\\_calls\\_for.htm](http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/news/2010/2/26/labor_secretary_hilda_solis_calls_for.htm) [2/26/10]

## **Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano**

Janet Napolitano, a former attorney, Arizona Attorney General, and Governor of Arizona, was nominated for the position of United States Secretary of Homeland Security and became the third person and the first woman to hold this position. She avers that her number one job is the prevention of domestic terror attacks, and to that end she seeks to expand information sharing between law enforcement agencies and to form new partnerships with international allies to defend from the threat of terrorism. On February 24, 2010 the US Senate voted to renew the PATRIOT ACT and this provides Napolitano with a wide set of tools to prosecute the War on Terror, but it raises issues of oversight and ethical concerns to which Napolitano is sensitive. She has faced great criticism from conservatives who see her as insufficiently tough on the issue of terror.

Two recent initiatives undertaken involve the security of air travel and the US-Mexico Border. Napolitano met with the International Air Transportation Association (IATA) in Geneva this February, to discuss security measures and concerns raised by the Christmas day attempted bomber, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab. The IATA regulates nearly 90% of global air travel. Napolitano believes secure borders with Mexico are essential to national security and are a pre-requisite to any discussion of comprehensive immigration reform. In budgeting for border defense, she has shifted \$300 million away from development of a virtual fence and instead has put it towards more practical concerns for border control agents; Napolitano believes the delays in the implementation of the virtual border fence signal a need to shift strategies, slowing technological output to ensure its quality.

“Secretary Janet Napolitano.” DHS Website. [http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/structure/gc\\_1232568253959.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/structure/gc_1232568253959.shtm)

“Without a secure border, reform efforts are wasted.” The Denver Post. (Online.) [http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci\\_14472649](http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_14472649) [2/20/10]

“Senate Votes To Renew PATRIOT Act.” Politico. (Online). <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0210/33479.html> [2/17/10]

“Strengthening Airline Security.” Voice of America. (Online). <http://www1.voanews.com/a-41-2010-02-11-voa1-84656052.html> [2/11/10]

“Napolitano explains why less (money) is more for SBInet.” Federal Computer Week. (Online). <http://fcw.com/articles/2010/02/25/web-napolitano-virtual-fence.aspx> [2/20/10]

## **Secretary of State Hillary Clinton**

Hillary Clinton first rose to national prominence as the First Lady of the United States during the years 1992-2000, when her husband, Bill Clinton, served as President of the United States. After Bill Clinton left the White House, Hillary Clinton campaigned for and won the position of junior senator in the State of New York. As Secretary of State, Clinton has had to jug-

gle many responsibilities in fulfilling Obama's ambition foreign goals: peace between Israel and Palestine, Sanctions on Iran to prevent nuclear arms development, resetting relations between the US and Russia, bringing North Korea back to negotiations and respecting and advancing human rights.

In late February, Clinton took a tour of Latin America, where she broached increasing sanctions on Iran with Brazil, which holds a rotating seat on the U.N. Security Council. Clinton also discussed expanding democracy, the situations in Honduras and Haiti and the need for the US and Latin American Powers to support stable democracies in the region. Aside from Iran, Negotiations and Sanctions on North Korea look more promising as Clinton admits she is encouraged by signs from the North Korean government that suggest it will return to negotiations and the six-party talks.

On relations with the US and Russia, Clinton has been successful in moving forward Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) talks. Clinton and her Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, are poised to reach an agreement within weeks that will renew the treat, which expired after negotiations in Geneva were suspended last year; each side will likely cut the number of deployed nuclear warheads to between 1,675 or 1,500 each. Yet, Clinton cares as much for human rights as she does for treaties and sanctions. On a recent visit to Saudi Arabia, Secretary Clinton addressed a gathering at a women's college, where she discussed women's rights in brief and foreign policy in length; it is believed government officials controlled the questions asked by Clinton's audience, preventing much talk of rights despite her wishes. Since Obama's Cairo speech, relations between the West and the Middle East and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have been a central issue for the US Department of State. Clinton remains a heavily criticized figure in American politics, but her hard work, tough rhetoric and practical sensibility have somewhat dampened conservative critics.

"Hillary Clinton to Discuss Iran's Nuclear Program on Latin American Trip." The Christian Science Monitor. (Online). <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Foreign-Policy/2010/0228/Hillary-Clinton-to-discuss-Iran-s-nuclear-program-on-Latin-America-trip> [02/28/10]

"Clinton to Visit Five Latin American Nations." CNN. (Online). <http://www.cnn.com/2010/POLITICS/02/26/clinton.latin.america.trip/?hpt=Sbin> [2/26/10]

"Clinton Presses Russia to Wrap Up START Deal." Reuters. (Online). <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61M5QS20100223?type=politicsNews> [2/23/10]

"As Saudi Woman Meet Clinton, Policy Dominates Talk of Rights." The New York Times. (Online.) <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/17/world/middleeast/17clinton.html> [2/17/10]

## **Secretary of Housing and Urban Development** **Shaun Donovan**

Donovan, the former head of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, has executed his duties as Secretary with little criticism from either side of the aisle and with much praise from groups and individuals in the field of urban development. His most recent initiatives is a grant of \$1.3 million to the City of Las Vegas and Clark County, Nevada; this emergency grant comes in addition to \$72 million in grants offered last year to Ne-

vada through the Recovery Act. Donovan also announced \$100 million in regional planning and development for Washington State. Donovan has reformed the allocation of grants by accepting local proposals for innovation in place of a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), a move that has been viewed as a positive new trend in Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

“As Suburbs reach limits, people move back to the cities.” The Seattle Post-Intelligencer. (Online). [http://www.seattlepi.com/connelly/415068\\_joel05.html?source=mypi](http://www.seattlepi.com/connelly/415068_joel05.html?source=mypi) [2/04/10]

“Donovan and Reid Announce \$1.3 Million to Help Las Vegas and Clark County.” Media Newswire. (Online). [http://media-newswire.com/release\\_1113392.html](http://media-newswire.com/release_1113392.html) [2/20/10]

### **Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner**

After the fierce criticism endured in the aftermath of his tax scandal and the unpopularity of Health Care Reform and the Recovery Act and the Stimulus, Geithner’s tone has become muted and subdued. He speaks generally of improving faith in the strength of America’s economy and of the need for more jobs and more regulation of the economy. Geithner has announced that administration reforms of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will not be unveiled until 2011, leaving Congress in the dark as to what will happen. Geithner stressed the need for the government to play a productive and “less risky” role in the housing market. The principles and broad objectives of reform are greater consumer protections, the closing of loopholes in the laws regulating banks and financial markets and the creation of more high paying jobs as part of a solution to the recession and financial crisis in the US. Geithner is more confident in the US economy now than he has been for the past three years; he feels government stimulus to construction has stopped its steep decline and will allow for a recovery without a second housing bubble.

“Treasury’s Geithner in his own words.” The Kansas City Star. (Online.) <http://www.kansascity.com/2010/02/28/1778982/treasurys-geithner-in-his-own.html> [2/28/10]

“Geithner says He’s More Confident in US Than in Past Three Years.” Business Week. (Online). <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-02-25/geithner-says-he-s-more-confident-in-u-s-than-in-past-3-years.html> [2/25/10]

“The Plan on Fannie, Freddie To Come Next Year, Geithner Says.” Wall Street Journal. (Online). [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704240004575085382423762288.html?mod=WSJ\\_hpp\\_LEFTWhatsNewsCollection](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704240004575085382423762288.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_LEFTWhatsNewsCollection) [2/24/10]

### **Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke**

From 1997 until 2005, Gary Locke was the Governor of Washington, the first Chinese American to hold the governorship of any US state. On March 26, 2009, Locke was sworn in as Secretary of Commerce. He has faced criticism from democrats for too often favoring republi-

can styled policies, especially when he, as governor, refused to raise taxes and instead cut spending on the elderly and disabled. Locke also faced bipartisan criticism from the Senate: a group of 15 senators who accused him of downplaying and ignoring the seriousness of Chinese currency manipulation and the implications for US trade. Locke advances Obama's agenda by expanding broadband access across the US and stimulating a renewal of American exports. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act appropriated \$7.2 billion for use by the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) to expand broadband access to underserved areas to increase jobs. The NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) offers grants for projects that would expand broadband infrastructure and public computing centers, and for investment in technology and infrastructure for long term benefits. Obama pledged in his State of the Union address that he would double US exports to create approximately two million new jobs. To do this, Locke advocates stricter enforcement of existing trade agreements and pressure on nations like China to open their markets to foreign competition. Locke has stated that the answer is not the restriction of imports, which could start a trade war, but an expansion of exports facilitated by fairer trade practices.

"US Senators Blast Locke." The Straits Times. (Online). [http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/Asia/Story/STISStory\\_495201.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/Asia/Story/STISStory_495201.html) [2/20/10]

"Locke Says Enforcement Will Help Double US Exports." Reuters. (Online). <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0422745220100204> [2/14/10]

"US Commerce Secretary Unveils Broadband Initiative." Examiner. (Online). <http://www.examiner.com/x-7002-Pittsburgh-History-Examiner~y2010m2d18-United-States-Commerce-Secretary-Gary-Locke-unveils-broadband-initiative-for-Pennsylvania> [2/18/10]

### **Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar**

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has worked forcefully to advance Obama's clean energy initiatives. He supports greater cooperation between States on the Atlantic coast and the federal government in creating offshore wind energy projects. He is especially hopeful that the support of Massachusetts's Governor Deval Patrick and President Obama will help complete the Cape Wind Project, which, though delayed by nine years, will create 130 wind turbines in Nantucket Sound. Salazar and Obama are working to overcome the regulatory confusion and red tape plaguing the creation of a wind power industry and new, green jobs. Salazar has been criticized by republicans who believe him to be insufficiently transparent, concerning what may be plans to create new national parks and bring more land and national sites under federal management and control.

"Salazar will try to speed wind projects." The Boston Globe. (Online). [http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/02/20/salazar\\_vows\\_to\\_help\\_hasten\\_wind\\_project/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/02/20/salazar_vows_to_help_hasten_wind_project/) [2/20/10]

"Republicans Pushing Interior Secretary to Release All the Documents." National Parks Traveler. (Online.) <http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2010/02/republicans-pushing-interior-secretary-release-all-documents-related-potential-national-monuments5436> [2/19/20]