FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 17, 2021
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Partnership for Public Service statement on the nomination of Leslie Kiernan for general counsel of the Department of Commerce

WASHINGTON – The nonpartisan, nonprofit Partnership for Public Service released the following statement following Leslie Kiernan’s nomination to be general counsel of the Department of Commerce.

“Leslie Kiernan will bring extensive public and private sector experience to her new job as the general counsel for the Department of Commerce,” said Max Stier, president and CEO of the Partnership for Public Service. “Her deep understanding of government and the business community will be a real asset for the Biden administration and for the nation.”

Stier continued, “I urge the Senate to consider Leslie Kiernan’s nomination quickly so she can begin assisting the Department of Commerce in promoting job creation, economic growth and ensuring our nation continues to be a leader of the global economy.”

Ann Orr, acting director of the Partnership’s Center for Presidential Transition said, “Leslie Kiernan is an excellent choice for general counsel of the Commerce Department. She brings a wealth of experience both inside and outside government to this important position.”

The Partnership for Public Service’s Department of Commerce oversight snapshot provides a wide array of data and insights regarding the department. Some key data points include:

- Number of employees: 36,306 (as of March 2019)
- 2019 Best Places to Work in the Federal Government score and rank: 69.6 out of 100, ranking 4th out of 17 large agencies
- Employee confidence in whistleblower protections: 63.4%, which is 1.1% lower than the government-wide score of 64.5%
- Number of positions requiring Senate confirmation: 22

The Partnership produces and maintains several other resources to assess and analyze the health of the federal government. These include a political appointments tracker with The Washington Post to follow the progress of more than 750 of President Biden’s Senate-confirmed political appointments, and the annual Best Places to Work in the Federal Government® rankings, produced by the Partnership and Boston Consulting Group, which measure employee engagement government-wide as well as at individual departments, agencies and subcomponents.

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