

**Nomination of Mr. Dennis C. Shea to be
Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research at the
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Hearing Before the United States Senate Committee on Banking,
Housing and Urban Affairs**



April 21, 2004

Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Sarbanes, and Members of the Committee: Good afternoon and thank you for convening this hearing during this busy legislative session. It is a privilege to be here with you today.

Before I say a few words about my nomination, I would like to introduce the two most important people in my life: my wife Elizabeth and my six-month-old daughter Juliette. Although Juliette has not yet learned to talk, she has assured me she would put in a good word for me if she were able to do so.

I would like to express my appreciation to President Bush for the honor of being nominated as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Policy Development and Research. I have been looking forward to the chance to work with Secretary Alfonso Jackson, so I am also grateful that the Senate has confirmed his appointment.

As you know, the Office of Policy Development and Research provides advice and information to the Secretary to support the Department's policies and proposals. PD&R compiles information to monitor current housing needs and market conditions. The Office also carries out both short-term and long-term research on priority housing and community-development issues. An important responsibility of PD&R is to conduct evaluations of our programs to make sure they are operating as Congress intended. PD&R's mission within HUD is critical to the success of our programs and to the achievement of Congress' goals. I will see to it that this mission is carried out with professionalism and integrity.

In my most recent job, as the Executive Director of the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service, I was able to lead a small staff in developing a comprehensive report recommending ways to preserve universal mail service. I am pleased that the Commission's report has been well received and is viewed as a substantial achievement, particularly in light of our tight deadline and the fact that no Commissioner or staff member came to this assignment with any significant expertise in postal policy.

I believe that this experience, as well as my other experiences in the policy development arena, will help me be an effective leader of the PD&R team. I am personally honored to have the opportunity to join the men and women of PD&R, who are among the best and the brightest of the HUD workforce.

Let me conclude by saying that, as a former member of the staff of the United States Senate, I also have a deep appreciation for this institution. Congress plays the central role in legislating our nation's housing policy and in funding the programs that the Department administers. I look forward to working with this Committee in an open and collaborative spirit to advance the goals of affordable housing, homeownership, and strong communities that we all share.

Thank you for your kind attention, and I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.