

REPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

UNITED STATES SENATE

RELEASED IN FULL

SUBJECT: Ambassadorial Nomination: Certificate of
Demonstrated Competence -- Foreign Service
Act, Section 304(a)(4)

POST: Australia REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer

CANDIDATE: Morrell John Berry

John Berry most recently served as the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Chief Human Resources Officer for 1.9 million federal employees from April 2009 to April 2013. Among his primary achievements were crafting improved federal recruitment strategies, expediting the hiring process for federal positions, achieving record levels of hiring veterans and Americans with disabilities (a Presidential priority), exceeding Congressional goals in improving the speed and quality of security background investigations, and attracting a diverse group of men and women with a rich mix of talents to serve America in the civil service. He is known for his solid familiarity with the issues, challenges and opportunities affecting the federal workforce and the operations of the federal government. As Director of OPM, Mr. Berry was the highest ranking openly gay person in the federal government in U.S. history and was responsible for advising the President on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues. Mr. Berry brings valuable experience and proven success as a leader and manager at diverse organizations, which ensures his ability to represent the U.S. and promote positive relations with Australia, a key international partner.

Prior to his tenure at OPM, Mr. Berry had a long history of federal service. He served as the Director of the National Zoological Park of the Smithsonian Institution (2005-2009), Director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (2000-2005), Assistant Secretary of Policy, Management and Budget at the Department of Interior (1997-2000), Director of Government Relations at the Smithsonian Institution (1995-1997), Deputy Assistant Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary of Law Enforcement at the Department of the Treasury (1994-1995), and Legislative Director for Representative Steny Hoyer in the U.S. House of Representatives (1985-1994). He also served as Staff Director of the Maryland Senate Finance Committee in Annapolis, Maryland and worked with the Montgomery County Government in Rockville, Maryland.

Mr. Berry graduated summa cum laude from the University of Maryland with a bachelor's degree in government and politics. In 1981, he earned a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University. He was the recipient of a Herbert H. Lehman Fellowship in New York State and received the Rubin G. Steinmeyer Award at the University of Maryland.