

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: Denmark

CANDIDATE: John Rufus Gifford

John Rufus Gifford, a former producer, is known for his talented leadership, political acumen, creativity and commitment to civic leadership. A proven, experienced financial manager, Mr. Gifford will bring essential skills to the task of furthering bilateral relations with the Government of Denmark, a key U.S. ally in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Most recently, Mr. Gifford served as the Finance Chair of the Presidential Inaugural Committee in Washington, DC. Prior to that, he served as Finance Director, Obama for America, Chicago, Illinois (04/2011 - 11/2012), Finance Director, Democratic National Committee, Washington, DC (01/2009 - 04/2011), California Finance Director, Presidential Inaugural Committee, Washington, DC (11/2008 - 01/2009), a self-employed Political Consultant in Los Angeles, California (11/2004 - 11/2008), and Deputy Finance Director, Western States, Democratic National Committee, Washington, DC (05/2004 - 11/2004). Mr. Gifford was Creative Executive, Davis Entertainment, Los Angeles, California (01/1998 - 03/2004), during which he produced several films.

Civil society leadership features prominently in Mr. Gifford's background. Among those organizations he has promoted and sponsored are the Human Rights Campaign Federal Club in Washington, DC, Public Interest Pictures in Los Angeles, California (as a Member of the Board of Trustees), Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation in Los Angeles, California, the World Wildlife Fund, the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, California, and the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

Mr. Gifford received a Bachelor's Degree from Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island in 1996. He was the 2013 Spring Gala Honoree of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer