



RESOLUTION ON POLICY REGARDING NON-DISCLOSURE OF DELIBERATIVE INFORMATION

July 1, 2015

WHEREAS, the faith and trust of the American people in the integrity of government institutions is critical to the proper functioning of the Federal Government;

WHEREAS, the Broadcasting Board of Governors believes that a culture of ethical behavior is a necessary foundational element to a reputation for honesty, objectivity, and impartiality;

WHEREAS, the Broadcasting Board of Governors recognizes that all agency employees must place loyalty to the Constitution, laws and regulations promulgated under its authority, and ethical principles applicable to the Executive Branch above private gain;

WHEREAS, the Broadcasting Board of Governors recognizes the obligation of all Federal employees to ensure nonpublic Government information is not improperly used to further any private interest;

WHEREAS, the Broadcasting Board of Governors recognizes that Federal employees shall not use their public office for private gain;

WHEREAS, the Broadcasting Board of Governors understands that the full and open exchange of nonpublic Government information between individual employees is essential to the effective management and operation of the agency; and

WHEREAS, the Broadcasting Board of Governors understands that the unauthorized disclosure or dissemination of nonpublic Government information is deleterious to the effective management and operation of the agency and can cause substantial harm to public interests.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Governors shall respect and preserve the security and confidentiality of nonpublic agency information, deliberations, and decisions to the utmost of its ability. Individual Members of the Board agree to not use nonpublic agency information for their own purposes, or to advance the private interests of any other person or entity.

The Board of Governors strives to conduct official agency business in as open and transparent a manner as possible. In doing so, individual Members of the Board agree that decisions to release agency nonpublic information, deliberations, or decisions shall be made collectively by the Board, or by agency employees when so delegated, in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and established agency policies.

Members of the Board retain the right to fully express individual opinions on any agency matter while performing official duties, and to question or challenge other Members when they believe it is necessary to the effective management and operation of the agency.

Members of the Board of Governors shall respect the confidentiality of their nonpublic discussions with other Members at all times and shall not disclose their existence or substance of without the express consent of the Members concerned unless otherwise authorized to do so by law or regulation.

Nothing in this policy restricts the rights of individual Members of the Board to discuss any matter of official agency business with other Executive Branch employees for official government purposes, or to disclose any instance of fraud, waste, abuse, or similar illegal or improper activity to the Office of the Inspector General or other appropriate law enforcement agency, department, or office.

Potential violations of this policy may be brought to the attention of any Member of the Board or the Board's Secretary. Conduct suspected of violating this policy will be discussed at the next scheduled Board meeting; Board discussions regarding potential violations may be conducted in sessions closed to the public if necessary. Members of the Board found to have violated this policy are subject to public censure by the Board, removal from leadership positions or committee assignments, restriction of access to nonpublic agency information, and, if warranted, referral to the U.S. Department of Justice.