

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4502

March 23, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to recommend Sean Cota for an appointment to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC).

As President of Cota & Cota Oil, Inc. in Bellows Falls, Vt., and Chairman of the Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Sean has been a national leader in efforts to increase transparency and consistency in the commodity and derivatives markets. This Main Street businessman has a keen understanding of how these complex and interconnected markets operate, and he would be an immediate and important contributor to the CFTC.

Sean has years of experience working with me and other members of Congress on financial reform efforts. An early voice warning of manipulation and fraud needlessly driving up the cost of energy to American consumers, Sean has testified before Congress and the CFTC nine times on commodity markets and financial derivatives. His knowledge was integral in the drafting of key commodity, swap, and derivative provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which we all hope will create a more dynamic and transparent marketplace for years to come.

Sean has been an effective advocate for end users and open markets, while working respectfully with those who have a different point of view. Most importantly, I have found that Sean acts in a balanced manner with integrity at all times.

Sean has the experience and integrity necessary to succeed on the CFTC. He has built credibility in the industry and a solid record of trying to reign in the wild speculation we have seen in our energy markets. Thank you for giving his application your consideration.

Respectfully,



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator