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United States Government Accountability Office  
Washington, DC 20548

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April 7, 2011

Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership  
American University, School of Public Affairs  
Office of the Dean  
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016-8022

To the Roger W. Jones Selection Committee:

I highly recommend Loren Yager for your consideration as GAO's nominee for the 2011 Roger Jones Award. Loren has demonstrated sustained leadership, direction and execution of GAO's trade portfolio in support of Congressional oversight of United States trade policy and trade agreements. His work has led to significant legislative improvements, regulatory reforms, and financial benefits for the American people and US industry.

Over the past decade, Loren Yager has led ground-breaking analyses that have enhanced GAO's contribution to legislative and agency action on trade barriers, global intellectual property protection, illegal textile transshipment, free trade agreements, China's compliance with the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the trade powers of China and India. His work has also resulted in improvements in Customs and Border Protection workforce planning, Customs revenue function performance measurement, and certification of conflict minerals. His testimonies on climate change trade measures and the economic benefits of export promotion have been widely cited by government and trade associations. Under Loren's leadership, GAO's trade portfolio now has unprecedented focus on financial benefits totaling more than \$9 billion in financial benefits associated with improvements in measures of inflation, as well as over \$600 million in costs avoided and an estimated \$900 million benefit to be achieved over the next three years resulting from repeal of a trade remedy law. Loren has been instrumental in supporting the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees' renewed focus on oversight of trade agreements and policy as evidenced by unprecedented numbers of congressional hearings and mandates for GAO review within the past several years.

Loren is also an innovator, having been instrumental in encouraging the use of technology for institutional knowledge sharing in GAO and language learning through acquisition of electronic learning tools. Loren was the senior executive who breathed life into a new hire's desire to institutionalize a Wiki as a knowledge sharing tool in GAO. Today, numerous teams and hundreds of GAO staff utilize Wiki daily.

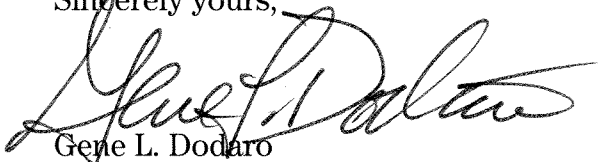
Loren is also a tireless educator and mentor, having created and led dozens of educational forums for newly hired GAO staff. For example, Loren has developed numerous presentations on GAO business operations and select agency programs and activities. Loren originated the highly regarded "10 Years of Experience in an Hour" training series to introduce newly hired staff to GAO and its congressional clients. Over 100 of our Professional Development Program staff have participated in learning sessions that Loren created to educate staff on how to: establish effective working relationships with congressional committee staff, support senior executives' preparation for delivery of testimony before Congress, and create context in our work to better understand and assist new legislative sessions in Congress. Dozens of staff have sought Loren's guidance on how to best prepare themselves to develop their professional careers at GAO.

Loren has also been instrumental in the development of emerging leaders at entry-level management positions, as well as competitors for the senior executive service. He also serves as GAO's campus executive for the University of Maryland, one of the highest yield recruiting locations for GAO.

Loren is a highly dedicated and respected representative of GAO. He is frequently asked to present GAO work at international conferences, and he is an in-demand congressional witness on US trade policy. Loren also commonly appears as a guest speaker at prestigious universities, and as a GAO presenter at US Department of State's speakers' program events.

Please feel free to contact me should you need any further information regarding this outstanding federal servant.

Sincerely yours,



Gene L. Dodaro  
Comptroller General of the United States

Enclosure: Nomination materials for Loren Yager

cc: cc list