



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503**

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**Linda M. Combs Confirmed as Controller, Office of Management and Budget**

**Washington, D.C.** – On Friday, the United States Senate unanimously confirmed President Bush’s appointment of Dr. Linda M. Combs as Controller for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The Controller provides government-wide leadership for strengthening financial management in Federal agencies and programs.

"Sound financial management helps ensure that taxpayer dollars are not being wasted, that the government’s financial books are in order, and that government decision-makers have access to accurate financial information. Through the President's Management Agenda, we will continue holding agencies accountable for financial performance so taxpayers know their money is being spent wisely and effectively," said Dr. Combs.

The Office of Federal Financial Management, led by the OMB Controller, is responsible for the financial management policy of the Federal Government. As Controller, Dr. Combs will lead the Improved Financial Performance Initiative for the President’s Management Agenda. The initiative focuses on improving the quality and timeliness of Federal financial information. This year, 18 of 23 Federal agencies received clean audit opinions on their financial statements. Additionally, 22 agencies accelerated the completion of their financial statements, making vital financial information available to agency leaders within 45 days of the close of the fiscal year. In past years, these agencies took as long as five months to complete their financial reports.

Most recently, Dr. Combs served as the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs and Chief Financial Officer at the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT). As Assistant Secretary, Dr. Combs oversaw all budgetary and management functions of the Department, including budget development and budget execution. As Chief Financial Officer, she was responsible for oversight of the Department’s \$57 billion appropriation, the Government Performance and Results Act, as well as general monitoring of programs. The Department of Transportation was the first Cabinet level Department to achieve four coveted “green” scores on the President’s Management Agenda.

Prior to her appointment at DOT, Dr. Combs served as Chief Financial of the Environmental Protection Agency from 2001-2003. During the previous Reagan and Bush Administrations, Dr. Combs served in various oversight roles and executive level management positions at the Departments of Education, Veterans Affairs, and Treasury. She also worked for more than ten years in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system in North Carolina.

Dr. Combs earned an Associate of the Arts degree at Gardner-Webb University, Bachelor of Science and Masters degrees from Appalachian State University, and a Doctorate in Educational Administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She is also a graduate of the Program for Senior Managers in Government at Harvard University.

For more information, please contact OMB Communications at (202) 395-7254.

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