

As the New Year begins, so may your interest in participating in political activities. The following link provides a memorandum from the Acting Secretary emphasizing the importance of compliance with the Hatch Act and information on prohibited activities regarding political participation: <http://www.usda-ethics.net/rules/political-activity12-2007.pdf>. Most USDA employees are subject to the Hatch Act Reform Amendments of 1993. I encourage you to review the memorandum and seek further guidance from the USDA Office of Ethics web site at www.usda.gov/ethics. Specific questions may be addressed by your agency Ethics Advisor or the Office of Ethics at (202) 720-2251.

Boyd K. Rutherford
Assistant Secretary for Administration