REPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

UNITED STATES SENATE

SUBJECT: Ambassadorial Nomination: Certificate of Demonstrated Competence -- Foreign Service Act, Section 304(a)(4)

POST: State of Qatar

CANDIDATE: Dana Shell Smith

Dana Shell Smith, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, currently serves as Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs in the Department of State. Known as a linguistic, cultural and policy expert on the Middle East, she understands the region well and can effectively present major U.S. policy issues to diverse audiences. Her leadership, management and public affairs expertise, as well as her interpersonal skills and creativity, will enable her to advance bilateral relations with the Government of Qatar, an important U.S. partner in managing the problems of the Middle East.

Previously, Ms. Smith served in the Department of State as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Public Affairs (2011-2014), Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Media, Bureau of Public Affairs (2010-2011), Regional Arabic Spokesperson, Regional Media Hub, Dubai (2009-2010), Senior Advisor, Office of Career Development and Assignments, Bureau of Human Resources (2006-2008), Public Affairs Officer, American Institute of Taiwan, Taipei, Taiwan (2003-2006), Press Attaché, Embassy Amman, Jordan (1999-2002), Public Diplomacy Officer, Embassy Tel Aviv, Israel (1996-1999) and Assistant Cultural Officer, Embassy Cairo, Egypt (1993-1996).

Ms. Smith earned a B.A. in Political Science and Middle East Studies from the University of California, San Diego, California in 1992, where she was the Valedictorian. She is the recipient of four Superior Honor Awards, seven Meritorious Honor Awards and Meritorious Step Increases and a Commendation Letter. She speaks Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew and Spanish.