

**Certificate for Personnel Participating As Judges for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) America COMPETES Prize Competitions:**

**Nondisclosure, Conflicts of Interest & Rules of Conduct**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Challenge: \_\_\_\_\_

1) I acknowledge that EPA has selected me to participate as a judge in the challenge prize competition identified above. I am aware that during the course of executing my duties in the above identified challenge, I may receive confidential business information (CBI), as well as participate in confidential deliberations leading to a decision by EPA to select a challenge winner.

2) I certify that I will not knowingly disclose any information obtained during the judging process (e.g., application materials not already in the public domain, comments and deliberations of the judging panel), directly or indirectly, to any person other than EPA's Challenge Manager, or a person authorized by the Challenge Manager, to receive such information. I understand that unauthorized disclosure of such information may subject me to substantial administrative, civil and criminal penalties, including fine, imprisonment, and loss of federal employment under applicable laws and regulations.

3) To the best of my knowledge, I certify that I do not have personal or financial interests in, or am an employee, officer, director, or agent of, any entity that is a registered contestant in the challenge described above, and I do not have a familial or financial relationship with an individual who is a registered contestant.

4) I certify that I will operate in a transparent manner in accord with the following minimum standards of conduct:

A. I will base each prize proposal evaluation on the published evaluation factors;

B. I will remain free from bias in making selection decisions;

C. I will provide EPA's Challenge Manager or his/her representative a score sheet or such other documentation the Challenge Manager requires for each application I review describing the basis for my evaluation of the application;

D. I will not discuss evaluation of matters related to competition entries or the judging thereof with any unauthorized individuals, including federal personnel, even after competition award, without specific prior approval from EPA's Challenge Manager or his/her representative;

E. I will not disclose a participant's proposal to another participant or other individuals except for EPA's Challenge Manager and his/her representatives;

F. Will remain free from conflicts of interest with participants;

G. Will disclose to HHS any contact during a competition with a participant regarding prospective employment;

H. Will not ask for, demand, exact, solicit, seek, accept, receive, or agree to receive, directly or indirectly, accept, directly or indirectly, any money, gratuity, or other thing of value from any officer, employee, representative, agent, or consultant of an applicant. I will advise my family that the acceptance of any such money, gratuity, or other thing of value may be imputed to me as a violation and must therefore be avoided.

I. Will not solicit or accept any promise of future payment, employment or business opportunity from, or engage, directly or indirectly, in any discussion of future payment, employment or business opportunity with any applicant or any officer, employee, representative, agent, or consultant of an applicant.

5) I understand that my obligations under this certification are of a continuing nature. If at any time during the judging process, I receive a contact from a contestant in the challenge I am judging concerning payment, employment or other business opportunity or the offer of a gift from an applicant's competitor, or I encounter circumstances where my participation as a judge might result in a real, apparent, or potential conflict of interest, I will immediately seek the advice of EPA's Challenge Manager or his/her representative.

6) These restrictions do not supersede, or otherwise alter, federal employee obligations, rights, or liabilities established by statute, regulation, Executive Order or agency policy.

7) The acknowledgement and signature provided does not bar disclosures to Congress or to an authorized representative of EPA's Office of Inspector General or an official of an executive agency or the Department of Justice that are essential to reporting a substantial violation of law.

I understand that making a false, fictitious, or fraudulent certification may subject me to prosecution under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_