**1 May 2014**

**PERSONAL FOR VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN**

Dear Mr. Vice President,

For a quarter century a handful of governance reformers have been advocating the creation of an Open Source Agency (OSA). Originally intended to focus on providing decision-support to the entire government while raising global access to open sources of information in all languages for academia, civil society, and commerce, this initiative finally made it on to pages 23 and 413 of the 9/11 Commission Report. This initiative has also been approved twice by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), provided that you, the President, or a Cabinet Secretary ask for it.

As I contemplate the closing two years of the Obama-Biden Administration, and the future prospects for America, I can think of no initiative that might yield greater political, cultural, and financial benefit to the United States of America, than this one. In terms of global influence, this is a new foundation.

In practical terms, this initiative would radically enhance the availability of decision-support to you and the President in particular, to the Cabinet generally, and to the Congressional oversight committees that now do not receive adequate decision-support. We are long over-due for ensuring that both the Executive and the Legislature have a common view of the threats, challenges, and change agents in our world. The OSA can also level the playing field against the various forces of disinformation.

In political terms this initiative will provide trenchant incontrovertible documentations helpful to achieving Presidential objectives including the radical reduction of the military budget that is 47% waste across all weapons systems, while still providing for a strong defense. Elsewhere I have documented how we can achieve a 450-ship Navy, a long-haul Air Force, and an air mobile Army while still reducing the military budget by 30% over four years. Similar advances can be made in all Cabinet Departments.

In financial terms, across Whole of Government, this decision-support enterprise will finally allow OMB to manage on the basis of decision-support that fully documents true costs and waste across the various complexes. Such knowledge can be managed politically – I learned the hard way, watching the National Security Act of 1992 led by Senator David Boren go down, because Senator John Warner equated reform with down-sizing and lost jobs and budgets. Reform can be job and revenue neutral at home if the savings are found in overhead and overseas. The OSA is a “big bat” relevant to every political debate.

Enclosed are a six-slide story board, a two-page memorandum, and a one-page simplified summary of what could be called the Smart Nation Act of 2014. Please note that one half of the proposed budget is intended to create 50 state community decision-support networks manned by the National Guard. Each of these networks will be highly relevant to citizen understanding of and participation in the substance of the 2016 elections and perhaps valuable in addressing localized employment and resilience issues.

I seek thirty minutes of your time in which to earn your support for this initiative, with the intent that you agree to serve as the first Chairman of the Board of Governors, and that you assign a member of your staff as my point of contact for developing this initiative with OMB so as to introduce legislation prior to the summer recess. I believe that you will find the OSA a resource of startling value.

Most respectfully,

Robert David Steele

CEO (pro bono)