

**Senator Richard J. Durbin**  
**June 21, 2006**

**INTRODUCING STEVEN PRESTON,  
NOMINEE FOR SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:  
RUNNING THE SBA WITH OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

Thank you, Madame Chair, for the opportunity to introduce Steven Preston to the Small Business Committee today.

When a tornado struck in my hometown of Springfield, Illinois earlier this year, I saw with my own eyes just how crucial it is that the Small Business Administration can respond with disaster relief loans quickly and efficiently. Particularly as we approach another hurricane season, it is essential that the SBA remains ready and able to help.

The SBA needs top-notch leadership and management to meet its two main goals:

- One, helping as many entrepreneurs as possible in Illinois and throughout the country grow and create as many jobs as possible; and

- Two, providing disaster loans to businesses and communities as quickly as possible to help them rebuild when the worst happens.

Steve Preston has the right experience to run such a critical organization.

Steve graduated from two great Illinois schools, first from Northwestern and then from the University of Chicago's MBA program. He then worked as an investment banker on Wall Street before returning to Illinois to become Executive Vice President at ServiceMaster, based in Downers Grove outside of Chicago.

Steve has spent nearly his whole career in operations, and I look forward to him bringing this organizational expertise to the SBA to help America's small businesses and entrepreneurs as they continue to create good jobs here in America.