

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**114<sup>th</sup> Congress Disclosure Form**  
**As required by and provided for in House Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5)**

*Legislative hearing on H.R. 2167, H.R. 2333, H.R. 4387, and H.R. 5114 on June 23, 2016*

**For Individuals:**

Name:  
Address:  
Email Address:  
Phone Number:

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**For Witnesses Representing Organizations:**

Name: Mary Ellen Sprenkel  
Name of Organization(s) You are Representing at the Hearing: The Corps Network  
Business Address: [REDACTED]  
Business Email Address: [REDACTED]  
Business Phone Number: [REDACTED]

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**For Nongovernment Witnesses ONLY:**

1. Please attach/include current curriculum vitae or resume.
2. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) related to the subject matter of the hearing that were received in the current year and previous two calendar years by you or the organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the source and amount of each grant or contract.

The Corps Network does not engage with Department of Interior or US Forest Service through federal grants or contracts, but rather works through Cooperative Agreements.

3. Please list any contracts or payments originating with a foreign government related to the subject matter of the hearing that were received in the current year and previous two calendar years by you or the organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the amount and country of origin of each contract or payment.

N/A

# Mary Ellen Ardouny



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## Professional Experience

**The Corps Network**, Washington, DC

*April 2008 – Present*

***President and CEO***

- General Responsibilities: work with Board and Corps Council to develop and implement 3-5 year strategic plan for the organization, including annual goals and benchmarks; responsible for fundraising and budget of more than \$4 million; manage staff of 16; oversee two large federal grants and three smaller foundation grants, including performance measures and reporting requirements; solicit new grant opportunities; represent organization at a wide variety of venues; edit and approve all organization publications
- Specific Accomplishments: Developed, in conjunction with the Board, a new mission statement and annual goals for the organization; restructured staff for greater efficiency and accountability; helped develop new initiatives for the membership, such as HOPE Crews and Gulf Coast Restoration; secured Opportunity Youth Service Initiative grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service; secured Gulf Coast planning grant from the Walton Family Foundation; served on the federal advisory board for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Corps Initiative; serve as a co-chair of America's Great Outdoors Month
- Oversee annual national conference and other types of technical assistance throughout the year.

***Vice President of External Affairs***

- General Responsibilities: oversaw all government relations, communication and marketing, and fund development activities; strategically identified, initiated, cultivated, and managed relationships with other organizations and individuals

***Director of Government Relations***

- General Responsibilities: work with Board and membership to establish legislative and administrative priorities; develop and implement a strategic plan designed to achieve such priorities, including the development and maintenance of relationships with key policy-makers and federal agency officials; expand opportunities for corps

outside of traditional issue areas (service and the environment) to include energy, transportation, juvenile justice, and others; responsible for all legislative activities during annual conference; write and edit a wide variety of materials, including legislation, regulations, policy papers, letters to Congress, and newsletter articles.

- Specific Accomplishments: secured preference for Service and Conservation corps in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and helped member Corps obtain nearly \$75 million in ARRA funding; responsible for establishment of Clean Energy Corps and other provisions for disadvantaged youth in Serve America Act; successfully advocated for the inclusion of “environmental stewardship” in CNCS’ five-year strategic plan; drafted and promoted the Youth Corps Act; negotiated language in and promoted the Public Lands Service Corps Act; developed an implementation plan for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Corps; helped obtain Civic Justice Corps funding from the Department of Labor; drafted and implemented national partnership agreements between The Corps Network and the Department of Interior and the Forest Service; obtained \$5 million agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, greatly advanced the “Corps” brand on the Hill and within the Administration.
- Advocate for the inclusion of “corps-friendly” language in legislation, such as the Serve America Act and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- Secure additional funding opportunities for member corps
- Negotiate memorandums of understanding and cooperative agreements between The Corps Network and federal agencies.

**The Education Finance Council**, Washington, DC

*February 2006 – March 2008*

***Assistant Vice President of Government Affairs***

- Responsible for outreach to Members of Congress and key policy staff regarding the Council’s mission and the educational efforts of its member organizations
- Promoted the purpose and benefits of the non-profit secondary market
- Significantly expanded contacts with Democratic policy-makers
- Helped protect the interests of non-profit secondary loan providers in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act and during the reauthorization and implementation of the Higher Education Act
- Analyzed legislation, regulations and reports for senior leadership and Board members

**The University of Montana**, Missoula, MT

*February 2003 – March 2005*

***Executive Assistant to the President***

- Served as liaison between President’s Office and campus community, local community, Board of Regents, and local and state governments
- Represented President on University policy committees
- Oversaw compilation and submission of campus reports; drafted and edited President’s correspondence
- Coordinated large campus events, including spring graduation

**Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez**, Washington, DC

*January 2001 – February 2003*

***Legislative Director***

- Developed and implemented Congresswoman's legislative agenda
- Defined message and formulated strategy to advance public policy objectives
- Drafted legislative proposals, public statements, briefing memoranda and media releases
- Advised Congresswoman and monitored legislative and policy developments regarding economic issues, education, the environment, labor, transportation, and welfare concerns
- Fostered relationships with national and community advocacy organizations
- Served as public liaison for Congresswoman at events in Washington, D.C. and Congressional District
- Supervised legislative staff and managed constituent communications

**Committee on Education and the Workforce**, Washington, DC

*February 1999 – December 2000*

***Professional Staff***

- Staffed and advised Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Training, and Life Long Learning on all education, labor, and welfare issues before the Committee
- Drafted legislation, press releases, and speeches
- Prepared legislative analyses and other official committee documents
- Drafted the Smart Classrooms Act and the IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000
- Negotiated for the Ranking Member and the Hispanic Caucus during reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act, the Welfare-to-Work Act, and the Older Americans Act

**Congressman Matthew G. Martinez**, Washington, DC

*March 1994 – January 1999*

***Legislative Assistant***

- Monitored legislation and formulated legislative initiatives
- Drafted testimony, speeches, and press releases
- Responded to constituent concerns in the following issue areas: education, environment, health care, judiciary, transportation, Social Security, and welfare
- Represented Congressman's interests on several conference committees, including the Workforce Investment Act and the Higher Education Act

**Education**

**Virginia Commonwealth University**, Alexandria, VA

***Candidate for Master's Degree in Social Work***

**University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI

*May 1992*

***Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Psychology***

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