

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

June 20, 2012

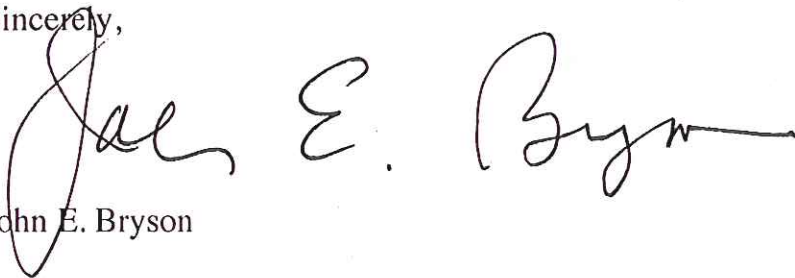
Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to memorialize our conversation.

As a consequence of a recent seizure and medical leave of absence, I advised you that I have decided to step down as the Secretary of Commerce. This is a critical period for our country's economy. We must each day continue to support the growth of America's businesses, exports and manufacturing and the vitally important jobs they create. I have concluded that the seizure I suffered on June 9<sup>th</sup> could be a distraction from my performance as Secretary and that our country would be better served by a change in leadership of the Department.

It has been an honor to serve you, your Administration and the American public as the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Bryson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John E. Bryson