



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 22, 2024

The Honorable
Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Grassley:

Thank you for your October 30, 2023, letter to Secretary Blinken requesting an updated response to your previous inquiry concerning the employment of Mr. Fritz Berggren. Mr. Berggren is an employee of the Department of State. Without a Privacy Act waiver, per 5 U.S.C. §552a, we cannot do more than confirm he is currently employed as a Foreign Service Officer and assigned to the position of General Services Officer in the Transportation Management Division of the Office of Logistics Operations.

While we cannot comment on Mr. Berggren's personnel files or records, we can assure you that worldwide, visa adjudications are routinely reviewed by consular managers at our embassies and consulates. Visa adjudicators are provided with ongoing training and managers counsel officers whose adjudications, conduct, or performance do not conform to Department standards. The Bureau of Consular Affairs does not record when adjudicators have recused themselves from adjudications, and there is no mechanism to retroactively do so.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Naz Durakoglu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Naz" and last name "Durakoglu" clearly distinguishable.

Naz Durakoglu
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Legislative Affairs