

Maureen Downes

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EXPERIENCE

Office of U.S. Senator Mark R. Warner

Senior Policy Advisor

Washington, DC

February 2015 – Present

- Serve as the advisor on tax and budget policies for a member of the U.S. Senate Finance and Budget Committees.
- Develop and advance legislation by identifying opportunities to modernize the tax code, building coalitions, educating congressional staff, and integrating stakeholders' feedback; created a bill to promote employees' stock ownership that was supported by 70 startups and tech firms and passed the Senate Finance Committee and House of Representatives.
- Monitor and analyze tax and budget issues, write memos that prepare the Senator to speak with Cabinet members and business leaders, draft press releases and speeches, and represent the Senator in meetings with principals.
- Lead initiatives on the sharing economy, including writing first-of-its-kind legislation to make benefits portable for gig workers and directing a campaign to persuade the Census Bureau to update the contingent workforce survey.
- Advance changes in Administration tax and fiscal policies to reflect the Senator's priorities through written communications with senior IRS and Treasury officials, meetings, and committee hearings.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Markets & Policy Analyst

Washington, DC

July 2012 – February 2015

- Led an interagency working group of senior-level officials that developed a multi-year strategic plan and priorities for the Bureau's work in the auto lending market.
- Advised rulemaking teams on the practices and participants in the auto lending and student loan servicing markets, and developed financial models and estimates that were included in two proposed regulations related to these markets.
- Presented each quarter to senior staff on the trends and consumer challenges in the auto and student lending markets, helping to inform the Bureau's enforcement and regulatory actions.
- Served as the subject matter expert on tax refund loans: responded rapidly to senior leadership's questions, conducted industry outreach, and prepared an internal white paper on all aspects of tax refund loans.

U.S. Senate Finance Committee, Chairman Ron Wyden

Presidential Management Fellow

Washington, DC

December 2013 – July 2014

- Provided expertise on tax administration issues: responded to technical questions from congressional staff and produced materials for Committee markups, including remarks for the Chairman, on short notice.
- Built a coalition of organizations supporting stronger oversight of tax return preparers, planned a hearing on the issue, and, based on the hearing's findings, drafted legislation granting IRS authority to regulate tax return preparers.

The Office of Management and Budget

Intern – Office of Federal Financial Management

Washington, DC

May 2011 – July 2011

- Evaluated more than 30 federal agency plans to recapture improper payments and developed a presentation to agency officials on the Administration's efforts to reduce the volume of improper payments.

Moss Adams LLP

Tax Manager

Portland, OR

January 2007 – July 2010

- Supervised multiple staff accountants and managed over 180 annual tax engagements, from initial client contact through project completion, for closely held businesses and financial institutions, often under tight deadlines.
- Specialized in pass-through taxation, with an in-depth understanding of low-income housing credits, state-level energy tax credits, and individual tax credits.

Beers and Cutler PLLC

Staff Accountant

Vienna, VA

September 2005 – December 2006

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

Master of Public Policy: May 2012

Ann Arbor, MI

Graduate School Instructor, Calculus, University of Michigan

Research Assistant, Professor James R. Hines, Jr. (Department of Economics)

Boston College

Bachelor of Science, Accounting: May 2005

Chestnut Hill, MA

Certified Public Accountant

Commonwealth of Virginia