



For Immediate Release

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Monument Advocacy Adds Top Agriculture Veteran to Expanding Agriculture & Food Practice

Washington, D.C. – Monument Advocacy announced today that Lilia McFarland Horder, a veteran with the Department of Agriculture, has joined Monument’s growing team. Having spent 12 years with the USDA, Horder will mainly support the firm’s agriculture and food practice as well as other key issue areas, such as sustainability. Monument is a boutique advocacy consulting firm with offices in DC, San Francisco, and Seattle providing government relations, strategic communications and public affairs services to corporations, trade associations and coalitions coast-to-coast.

Speaking about bringing Horder on board, C. Stewart Verdery, Jr., Monument’s Founder & CEO, commented “While it’s been an interesting time to start a new job, Lilia has hit the ground running providing excellent service to our clients focused on food and agriculture. Her experience cannot be matched having served well over a decade at the USDA in many senior roles across multiple administrations. We’re pleased to have her on board to work closely with T.A. Hawks and our leading agriculture and food practice.”

In addition, Monument added Floridian John Pappas as a Legislative & Public Affairs Manager to support all of Monument’s clients with a focus on environment and sustainability.

About Lilia

Lilia McFarland Horder joins Monument Advocacy after almost 12 years with the Department of Agriculture. Most recently, she served as the Acting Chief of Staff for Departmental Administration, which provides management leadership across USDA in the areas of contracting, national security, customer service, human resources, and more. Lilia formerly served as the lead for the federal government initiative to support and provide resources to the next generation of agriculture, as Acting Chief of Staff in the office of the USDA Deputy Secretary, and in the Office of Congressional Relations, where she worked closely with Capitol Hill on a wide range of issues including food safety, trade, disaster assistance, risk management, credit, and international food security. Lilia also served as a legislative fellow in the office of the senior senator from California, focused on the farm bill and agriculture appropriations. Lilia was recognized in 2016 as a finalist for the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America medals, which recognizes federal government employees who make significant contributions to the governance of the United States. Originally from Deep East Texas, Lilia earned her degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

About John

John joins Monument with a background in environmental and energy policy. Previously, John helped nonprofits like the Center for Biological Diversity lead environmental advocacy campaigns in his home state of Florida, including a successful campaign against a proposed phosphate mine that would have devastated thousands of acres of wetlands and other natural systems. He also has extensive legislative affairs experience, having worked multiple sessions for the former President of the Florida Senate. John has a juris doctor from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where he attained a Concentration in Environmental and Land-Use Law, as well as a bachelor's degree from Florida State University, where he studied political science and environmental science.