

# FOIA MARKER

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**Collection/Record Group:** Clinton Presidential Records

**Subgroup/Office of Origin:** Americorps

**Series/Staff Member:** General Files

**Subseries:**

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**OA/ID Number:** 24230

**FolderID:**

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**Folder Title:**

Administrative (Office): Joel's Bio

**Stack:**

**S**

**Row:**

**66**

**Section:**

**1**

**Shelf:**

**4**

**Position:**

**2**



UNITED  
STATES  
DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

## **BIOGRAPHY OF JOEL BERG**

### **DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SERVICE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Joel Berg is Director of National Service for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), a position he has held since April 1994. He is responsible for planning and managing the largest-single component of the AmeriCorps national service program run by a Federal agency, overseeing 1,350 AmeriCorps Members serving in USDA anti-hunger, environmental, and rural development projects in 45 states.

From January through March of 1993, he served as USDA's Acting Director of Public Affairs and Press Secretary, coordinating all communications activities for the Department. From April 1993 through March 1994, he served as Director of Public Liaison, holding responsibility for the Department's interactions with constituency groups.

Berg moved to USDA from the domestic policy staff of the Presidential Transition Team, where he helped develop the details of President-Elect Clinton's national service initiative. For a year preceding the 1992 Presidential election, Berg worked for the Clinton for President Campaign in Arkansas, Maine, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, and Kansas.

From March 1989 to August 1990, and again in 1991, Berg was a Policy Analyst for the Progressive Policy Institute and the Democratic Leadership Council. These groups played a key role in developing many of the reinventing government ideas advanced by President Clinton and Vice-President Gore. Berg served both groups as their principal researcher on policy relating to national service, public housing, youth apprenticeship, and higher education. He played a significant role in crafting the national service demonstration project provisions of the National and Community Service Act of 1990, a forerunner to President Clinton's national service bill. His writings on national service and other topics have appeared in major publications throughout the country.

Among other experiences, Berg served as Campaign Manager for Representative Frank Pallone in New Jersey in both 1990 and 1992, and for Peter Gruenstein for Congressman-at-large in Alaska in 1988. In 1987 and 1988, Berg helped run the Bruce Babbitt for President Campaign in New York State.

Berg is a native of New York State. His first government service was in 1986 when he was appointed Environmental Quality Commissioner in Ramapo, NY. He graduated from New York's Columbia University in 1986 with a B.A. in political science.