

Release Number 8354-21

Heath P. Tarbert Concludes Historic Tenure as CFTC Chairman

January 21, 2021

Washington, D.C. — [Heath P. Tarbert](#) today concluded his tenure as the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's 14th Chairman and Chief Executive. Mr. Tarbert took office on [July 15, 2019](#) and on [December 10, 2020](#) announced he would step down from the chairmanship in early 2021. He currently remains one of the agency's five Commissioners, with a term expiring on April 13, 2024.

"It has been the highlight of my professional career to serve the American people as this agency's 14th Chairman and Chief Executive. It is bittersweet to step down from a role that I have enjoyed so much, but it is important to clear the way for President Biden's selection of a permanent chair. The peaceful transfer of power is a hallmark of the American system of self-government, and I am proud of our efforts to uphold that tradition here at the CFTC," said Mr. Tarbert.

"I am incredibly proud of this agency's record setting accomplishments over the last 18 months," Mr. Tarbert continued. "We undertook an ambitious and consensus-driven rulemaking agenda, vigorously protected market integrity with a historic enforcement effort, provided a steady hand for our markets during the pandemic, preserved our jurisdiction over US clearinghouses, and so much more. I am immensely grateful to my staff, the agency's career professionals, my fellow commissioners, and my family for making all of this historic progress on behalf of the American people possible."

Under Chairman Tarbert's leadership, the CFTC set the global standard for sound derivatives regulation by:

- Holding 20 open meetings, more than the previous 7 years combined;
- Advancing 41 final rules and 21 proposals—90 percent of them on a bipartisan basis;
- Setting numerous records for enforcement, including most cases in a fiscal year (113 in FY2020);
- Taking more than 20 actions to support liquid and orderly trading including during the pandemic;
- Successfully concluding international negotiations to preserve CFTC jurisdiction over US clearinghouses;
- Presiding over the self-certification of more than 1,000 new products to trade on our markets;
- Promoting responsible fintech innovation, elevating LabCFTC into an independent operating unit, and beginning to treat Ether as a commodity;
- Implementing a major reorganization and establishing a new Division of Data; and
- Enhancing diversity with more women and people of color serving in senior leadership roles than ever before.

-CFTC-