



441 G St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

Comptroller General
of the United States

July 18, 2014

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary of Commerce

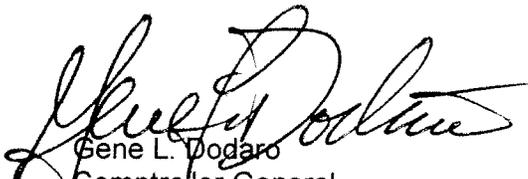
Dear Ms. Pritzker:

I am writing to request that the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) discontinue the sale of electronic copies of Government Accountability Office (GAO) products. As you know, in 2012 and 2013, we reported that most of the products added to NTIS's collection and made available for sale were readily available from other public websites, and nearly all of them could be obtained for free.¹ For example, although GAO makes electronic copies of its products available free of charge on its website, we found that NTIS charges interested parties a fee for electronic copies of GAO products. Based in part on this finding that NTIS charges for products available elsewhere at no charge, we recommended that Congress consider whether the fee-based model under which NTIS operates for disseminating technical information should be continued.

Rather than charge a fee for electronic copies of GAO's products, I request that you direct interested parties to our website where they can obtain electronic copies of GAO's products free of charge.

I appreciate your consideration of this request. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Valerie C. Melvin at (202) 512-6304 or melvinv@gao.gov.

Sincerely,



Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General
of the United States

cc: The Honorable Bruce Borzino, Director, NTIS

¹GAO, *Information Management: National Technical Information Service's Dissemination of Technical Reports Needs Congressional Attention*, GAO-13-99 (Washington, D.C.: Nov. 19, 2012) and *2013 Annual Report: Actions Needed to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Other Financial Benefits*, GAO-13-279SP (Washington, D.C.: Apr. 8, 2014).