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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6250

March 1, 2012

James Sherk
Senior Policy Analyst in Labor Economics
The Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Avenue NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-4999

Dear Mr. Sherk:

I am writing to invite you to submit written testimony to the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight for a hearing entitled, "Contractors: How Much Are They Costing the Government?" The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 10:30 A.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine whether government agencies use cost information to determine if work should be performed by federal employees or contractors. The hearing will also assess what the government is doing to improve the data available on contractors and develop best practices to determine when using contractors will constitute the most effective use of taxpayer dollars. In addition, the hearing will examine how government agencies can control the costs of contracting while still maintaining effective contract management and oversight.

I invite you to submit written testimony to address how the government accounts for and analyzes the cost of contractors versus the cost of federal employees. I would also appreciate any suggestions you may have as to how the government can do a better job in this area going forward.

Please submit an electronic copy of your written statement to Subcommittee Clerk, Kelsey Stroud, at Kelsey_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov by **10:30 A.M. on Friday, March 9, 2012.** Please contact Margaret Daum at (202) 224-4462 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

cc: Rob Portman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight