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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

GABRIELLE A. BATKIN, STAFF DIRECTOR
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July 7, 2014

The Honorable Bruce Borzino
Director
National Technical Information Service
5301 Shawnee Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22312

Dear Mr. Borzino:

We are writing to invite you to testify before the Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight at a hearing titled, "A More Efficient and Effective Government: The National Technical Information Service." The hearing will be held on **Wednesday, July 23, 2014**, at **2:30 P.M.** in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). The hearing will examine NTIS' statutory mission to maintain a clearinghouse of government-funded scientific, technical, engineering, and business-related information, focusing on the need to maintain the clearinghouse and its current and future financial viability. The hearing will also explore other services that NTIS provides. The hearing will also provide an opportunity to review S. 2206, the Let Me Google That for You Act, which would eliminate NTIS and allow the Secretary of Commerce to transfer any functions deemed critical to another office within the Department of Commerce.

Your testimony should address the value of the NTIS' statutory mission to the federal government and taxpayer, including the long-term sustainability of NTIS' business model. Your testimony should also address the services NTIS provides that are not within its statutory authority, including the extent to which these services duplicate those provided by other agencies. Finally, your testimony should discuss any critical functions provided by NTIS that are not provided by other federal agencies.

To assist the Subcommittee in preparing for this hearing, I request that your office provide the following documents and information:

- (1) Electronic versions of NTIS's annual financial reports for each fiscal year from FY2009 through FY2011;
- (2) The number of products currently available for purchase from NTIS, broken out by each year of product publication;
- (3) Revenue from the sale of publications (electronic, paper, or other), subscriptions and all other services (broken out by service) for the most recent five fiscal years (FY2009-FY2013). For each category in each fiscal year, please identify the fraction of collections coming from

members of the public (to the extent possible, broken out by appropriate requester type, for example: private individual, academic institution, business) and from other government agencies;

- (4) The number of publications provided to NTIS by other federal agencies each year for the last five years, and a description of the methodology used to collect publications not proactively provided to NTIS by federal agencies;
- (5) A description of whether and how customers are notified that information they are seeking is available for free elsewhere;
- (6) A description of all joint ventures into which NTIS has entered for the last 5 fiscal years (FY2009-FY2013), identified by fiscal year. For each joint venture, identify those public and private sector entities participating, the service provided through the joint venture, and the costs and revenues associated with each joint venture;
- (7) A description of the difference between an NTIS joint venture and a procurement contract and the applicability of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to joint ventures, and citations to the statutes, regulations, agency policies and guidance (Department of Commerce or NTIS), and any other applicable documents that govern NTIS's use of joint ventures;
- (8) A list of Interagency Agreements (IAAs), Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), or other similar agreements that NTIS has entered into with federal agencies or private entities, for the last 5 fiscal years (FY2009-FY2013). For each IAA or MOU, list the dollar value of the agreement, nature of the service(s) provided, the fiscal year(s) in which those services were provided, the entity that provided the service, and whether the services were provided as part of a joint venture;
- (9) The extent to which NTIS has been involved in implementation of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) "shared services strategy" and the nature of any involvement;
- (10) A list of NTIS services, if any, on Uncle Sam's List, which the Chief Information Officers Council describes as an online catalog of federal agency shared services that can be bought by one agency from another agency, and a copy of the description of NTIS's offerings that on the Uncle Sam's List website administered by OMB;
- (11) A list of the Automated Document Storage and Retrieval (ADSTAR) facilities that NTIS maintains and whether these facilities are administered by NTIS or a contractor;
- (12) A description of how NTIS's ADSTAR services difference and similarities to the archival facilities offered by the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) Federal Records Centers. Please include information on agencies that use NTIS's archival and storage facilities and how much of NTIS's total revenue is generated by these services;

We request that you summarize your testimony in 5 minutes, although a longer written statement may be submitted for the official record. This will allow adequate time for you to engage in

The Honorable Bruce Borzino
July 7, 2014
Page 3

questions and answers with members of the Subcommittee. **Subcommittee rules require that your testimony be submitted by no later than 2:30 P.M. on Monday, July 21, 2014.** Please send official correspondence relating to this invitation, including an electronic copy of your written statement and a brief one page biography, to Subcommittee Clerk Kelsey Stroud at Kelsey_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov.

We request that you provide the documents and information requested above and a briefing for Subcommittee staff as soon as possible, but no later than **Monday, July 14, 2014**. An attachment to this letter provides additional information about how to respond to the Subcommittee's request.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight is set forth in Senate Rule XXV clause 1(k); Senate Resolution 445 section 101 (108th Congress); and Senate Resolution 64 (113th Congress).

I appreciate your assistance. Please contact Charlie Moskowitz with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-7155 or Mike Howell with Senator Johnson's Subcommittee staff at (202) 228-0653 with any questions. Please send any official correspondence relating to this request to Kelsey_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov.



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial and
Contracting Oversight

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial and
Contracting Oversight

Cc: Tom Coburn
Ranking Member

Enclosure