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**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

HEARING: "Stimulus Contractors Who Cheat on Their Taxes: What Happened"

Statement of Senator Tom Carper
As prepared for delivery

The findings released by the Government Accountability Office today are deeply concerning, but unfortunately not surprising. We've known for some time that there's a significant tax gap in this country, and in some cases we've found that government contractors are contributing to the problem. As we continue to develop a culture of thrift within our government, it's always best to go after the low-hanging fruit first. Reducing the tax gap is a common-sense approach to combating our nation's mushrooming budget deficits. Millions of Americans pay their taxes properly and on-time. However, those who fail to pay their fair share not only create a burden that our economy simply cannot sustain but they force their fellow Americans who play by the rules to pay more in taxes.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to offering legislation that takes the necessary steps to crack down on lawbreakers, which will lower costs for law-abiding Americans and reduce our deficit.

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