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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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May 12, 2015

Soraya Correa  
Chief Procurement Officer  
Department of Homeland Security  
Office of the Chief Procurement Officer  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Ms. Correa:

As you are aware, failure to pursue suspension and debarment actions against poorly performing contractors puts the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) at risk of decreased productivity and increased cost. Further, failure to record performance information for poorly performing contractors deprives other agencies of important information in making their own contracting decisions.

When the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General (IG) last reviewed DHS' suspension and debarment program in 2010, the IG found that DHS was reluctant to pursue suspension and debarment actions. The IG identified 23 instances of contracts being terminated for default or cause without being reviewed to determine whether a suspension and debarment referral was warranted. The IG also found that 21 of the 23 terminated contracts did not contain any recorded information as to the circumstances underlying the decision to terminate the contract. The IG recommended that DHS develop a set of policies, procedures, and internal controls to ensure that poorly performing contractors are reviewed for suspension and debarment and that information on these contractors is properly recorded.<sup>1</sup>

I request that DHS provide information on its implementation of the IG's recommendations. Specifically, I request that DHS address how many suspension and debarment matters have been pursued in the last five years and the outcomes of these efforts. Alternatively, if DHS has used administrative remedies instead, I request the circumstances and outcomes of the administrative remedies. I also request that you provide information on whether there have been improvements in recording contractor performance data. Additionally, please provide information on the budget and personnel resources being applied to suspension and debarment efforts.

I request that DHS provide a response on or before June 1, 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, *DHS' Use of Suspension and Debarment Actions for Poorly Performing Contractors*, OIG-10-50 (Feb. 2010).

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Please contact Sarah Garcia with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-9505 with any questions. Please send any official correspondence relating to this request to [Kelsey\\_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov](mailto:Kelsey_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: Rob Portman  
Chairman  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations