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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

February 10, 2012

MICHAEL L. ALEXANDER, STAFF DIRECTOR
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The Honorable W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

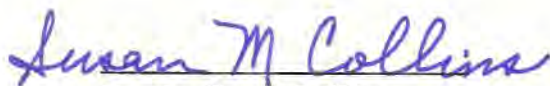
The DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) report, released on December 7, 2011, entitled "*Major Management Challenges Facing the Department of Homeland Security*," highlighted the fact that 93 percent of DHS purchase card transactions reviewed by the OIG did not fully comply with OMB internal controls and oversight requirements. A previous OIG report, "*Improving FEMA's Disaster Purchase Card Program*," concluded that, "...internal control issues remain..." within FEMA's purchase card program. This report also recommended improvements to the purchase card program's internal controls as a mechanism for reducing improper payments.

As detailed in the 2010 "*Improving FEMA's Disaster Card Purchase Program*" report, internal control weaknesses lead to improper purchases and wasted federal tax dollars. Federal tax dollars will continue to be wasted until this situation is fixed.

Please provide an update on actions FEMA has taken to implement recommendations made in the May 2010 report by February 24th, 2012. Also, please describe any actions FEMA has taken in addition to the recommendations of the report, including changes to the data-mining and post-payment audit processes at FEMA to ensure appropriate oversight and controls of the purchase cards are in place.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please direct your staff to provide the response to Eric Heighberger at 202.224.4751 or Eric_Heighberger@hsgac.senate.gov and Velvet Johnson at 202.224.7155 or Velvet_Johnson@hsgac.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Senator Susan Collins
Ranking Member



Senator Thomas Carper