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United States Senate

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

September 10, 2009

William T. Woods
Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Woods:

We are writing to invite you to testify before the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Improving Transparency and Accessibility of Federal Contracting Databases." The hearing will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2009 at 2:30 P.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to assess current problems with existing federal databases that contain information relating to government contracting and to examine ways to improve the accessibility and transparency of the systems. The hearing will also provide an opportunity to discuss the vision and goals of the Integrated Acquisition Environment and the federal government's plans to streamline, improve, and integrate the existing database systems.

Your testimony should address the experience of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) as a user of contracting database systems, including the extent to which GAO has encountered problems or experienced benefits in utilizing these various systems to carry out its work. Your testimony should also address any findings from previous GAO reviews of procurement-related information systems, including the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS), the Past Performance Information Retrieval System (PPIRS), and the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), and should discuss the status of any recommendations GAO has made to improve these and other systems.

The Subcommittee requests 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 questions and answers with members of the Subcommittee. Subcommittee rules require that your testimony be submitted by 2:30 P.M. on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. Please send 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 look forward to your participation in this hearing. Please contact Alan Kahn with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-3230 or Molly Wilkinson with Senator Bennett's Subcommittee staff at (202) 228-3141 with any questions.

William T. Woods
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Claire McCaskill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Claire" being more prominent.

Senator Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent.

Senator Robert Bennett
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight