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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

October 19, 2009

Jeffrey Zients
Deputy Director of Management and Chief Performance Officer
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Zients:

We are writing to invite you to testify before the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Achieving the President's Objectives: New OMB Guidance to Combat Waste, Inefficiency, and Misuse in Federal Government Contracting." The hearing will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 2:30 P.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to review the Office of Management and Budget's new guidance on federal contracting, which will be issued shortly at the direction of the President. The hearing will also provide an opportunity to discuss the President's March 4, 2009 memorandum for the heads of executive branch departments and agencies, in which the President stated that the federal government "should perform its functions efficiently and effectively while ensuring that its actions result in the best value for the taxpayers."

Your testimony should address the Office of Management and Budget's guidance on how to achieve and implement the four directives in the President's memorandum: (1) the appropriate use and oversight of sole-source and other types of noncompetitive contracts; (2) ways to minimize risk and maximize value for all government contracts consistent with agency needs; (3) the best way for the Federal acquisition workforce to develop, manage, and oversee acquisitions; and (4) clarification of when outsourcing of government services is inappropriate.

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 Monday, October 26, 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.

Sincerely,



Senator Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

Senator Robert Bennett
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight