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United States Senate

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

December 10, 2009

Richard L. Greene Acting Director Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance United States Department of State 2201 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20520

Dear Director Greene:

We are writing to invite you or your designee to testify before the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Afghanistan Reconstruction and Development Contracts: An Overview". The hearing will be held on Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 2:00 P.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. This will be the second in a series of hearings held by the Subcommittee on oversight of the government's contracts in Afghanistan.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine whether sufficient steps are being taken to ensure adequate management and oversight of troop support, reconstruction, and development contracts in Afghanistan, which are expected to increase in number and value in conjunction with the increase in uniformed personnel in Afghanistan that was announced by President Obama on December 1, 2009. The hearing will also review whether the lessons learned from Iraq are being applied in Afghanistan. In addition, the hearing will discuss findings from federal auditors and explore potential abuses in the award, management, and oversight of Afghanistan contracts.

Your testimony should address the State Department's planning, management, and oversight for reconstruction and development contracts in Afghanistan, including coordination between the State Department and USAID. You should also be prepared to address the State Department's mission in Afghanistan and its current and anticipated civilian and contractor workforce levels. In addition, your testimony should outline the Department's plans for increasing Afghan participation in reconstruction and development contracts and ensuring the sustainability of U.S.-funded projects.

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 no later than 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 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.

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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