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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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June 13, 2011

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

We are writing to invite you or your designee to testify before the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Afghanistan Reconstruction Contracts: Lessons Learned and Ongoing Problems." The hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. This hearing is the fifth in a planned series of hearings covering actual and potential waste, fraud, and abuse in Afghanistan contracts.

The purpose of the hearing is to assess the management and oversight of reconstruction contracts in Afghanistan. In particular, the hearing will focus on the extent to which the Defense Department and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have applied lessons learned since the beginning of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The hearing will also provide an opportunity to review the continuing problems with Afghanistan contracts, including lack of planning, lack of transparency, and inadequate oversight.

Your testimony should review the management and oversight of construction contracts in Afghanistan. In particular, your testimony should address recent concerns raised about cost overruns, inadequate training for contracting officials, lack of quality assurance, allegations of corruption, insufficient subcontractor transparency, problems with vetting contractors, and difficulties in coordinating military and civilian planning for construction contracts in Afghanistan. Your testimony should also address GAO's previous recommendations regarding the management and oversight of contingency contracts and the extent to which these recommendations have been implemented by the Defense Department and USAID.

We request 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 10:00 A.M. on Friday, June 24, 2011.** Please send official correspondence relating to this request and invitation, including 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. Please contact Alan Kahn with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-3230 or Brian Callanan with Senator Portman's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-4148 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight



Rob Portman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight