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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 Rajiv Shah
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20523

Dear Dr. Shah:

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 review the continuing problems with Afghanistan contracts, including lack of planning, lack of transparency, and inadequate oversight. The hearing will also provide an opportunity to review the latest findings of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) regarding the management and oversight of construction contracts.

Your testimony should address USAID reconstruction and development contracts in Afghanistan, including USAID's contracts with the Louis Berger Group to build the Gardez-Khost Highway and the Kabul Power Plant. In particular, you should be prepared to address recent concerns raised about these and other infrastructure contracts, including cost overruns, inadequate training for contracting officials, lack of quality assurance, allegations of corruption, insufficient subcontractor transparency, problems with vetting contractors, lack of sustainability, and difficulties in coordinating military and civilian planning for construction contracts in Afghanistan.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight is set forth in Senate Rule XXV clause 1(k); Senate Resolution 445 section 101 (108th Congress); and Senate Resolution 73 (111th Congress). An attachment to this letter provides additional information about how to respond to the Subcommittee's request.

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

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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.

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