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United States Senate

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

July 15, 2011

The Honorable Daniel I. Gordon
Administrator
United States Office of Federal Procurement Policy
1650 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Administrator:

I am writing to request a briefing regarding the Federal Awardee Performance Integrity and Information System (FAPIIS). As you know, I worked hard to require the creation of FAPIIS to improve the transparency and accountability of the federal procurement process by creating a single, searchable database of contractor misconduct.

I recently learned that FAPIIS may have a system limitation which could prevent it from functioning properly. As currently designed and deployed, FAPIIS tracks data about contractors using the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. However, contractors often have different DUNS numbers for different parts of their organizations. Therefore, when a contracting officer views a contractor's information in FAPIIS, the information displayed is only for a particular DUNS number and not the entire corporate entity. As a result, contracting officers may be missing pertinent information regarding the contractor's record of misconduct.

The use of DUNS numbers may also mean that FAPIIS is not in compliance with its legal requirements. In 2009, Congress required the creation of "a database of information regarding the integrity and performance of certain persons awarded Federal agency contracts and grants".¹ If FAPIIS cannot display information for each corporate entity, as opposed to the individual DUNS numbers, it may not be meeting the requirement that it display information about each person receiving federal contracts.

To assist the Subcommittee in understanding these issues, I request that you provide a briefing for Subcommittee staff regarding the operation of FAPIIS. I request that you provide the briefing as soon as possible, but in no case later than **Friday, July 29, 2011**.

¹ Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 §872.

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).

Please have your staff contact Margaret Daum at (202) 224-4462 with any questions. Please send any official correspondence relating to this request to kelsey_stroud@hsgac.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Claire McCaskill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Claire" written in a large, stylized loop.

Claire McCaskill

Chairman

Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

cc: Rob Portman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight