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United States Senate

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

February 28, 2012

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As part of the Subcommittee's ongoing oversight of public relations and advertising contracts, we are writing to ask for information regarding the Department of Agriculture's contracts for the acquisition of public relations, publicity, advertising, communications, or similar services. Please provide a list of all the Department's contracts for these types of services awarded on or after October 1, 2008. Please submit your response using the spreadsheet provided with the following information for each contract:

- (1) The contract number;
- (2) The date of contract award;
- (3) The name of the contractor and any subcontractors;
- (4) The type of competition;
- (5) The cost of the contract, including the base and options value, as well as the obligated amount of the contract;
- (6) A brief description of the contract scope and the work performed; and
- (7) The agency initiative, project, or policy supported by the contract.

We request that you provide information to the Subcommittee by **March 16, 2012**.

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.

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We appreciate your assistance. Please contact Rafael Roman with Senator Portman's Subcommittee staff at (202) 228-5512 or Sarah Garcia with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-1014 with any questions. Please send any official correspondence relating to this request to kelsey_stroud@hsgac.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight



Rob Portman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

Enclosures

Request for Publicity-Related Contract Information

The following nineteen (19) North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Codes identify publicity-related categories. For the purposes of your response, please treat this list as illustrative, but not exhaustive:

512	Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries
51219	Postproduction Services and Other Motion Picture and Video Industries
512110	Motion Picture and Video Production
512199	Other Motion Picture and Video Industries
515111	Radio Networks
515120	Television Broadcasting
515210	Cable and Other Subscription Programming
519130	Internet Publishing and Broadcasting and Web Search Portals
541430	Graphic Design Services
541613	Marketing Consulting Services
541810	Advertising Agencies
541820	Public Relations Agencies
541840	Media Representatives
541850	Display Advertising
541860	Direct Mail Advertising
541890	Other Services Related to Advertising
541910	Marketing Research and Public Opinion Polling
711320	Promoters of Performing Arts, Sports and Similar Events without Facilities
711519	Independent Artists, Writers and Performers