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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

RICHARD J. KESSLER, STAFF DIRECTOR
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December 13, 2013

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Mr. Huerta:

We are writing to invite you or your designee to testify before the Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Management of Air Traffic Controller Training Contracts." The hearing will be held on January 14, 2014, at 2:30 P.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) management of the Air Traffic Controller Optimum Training Solution (ATCOTS) program and contract. In 2010, the Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General issued a report that found serious shortcomings in the contract, including significant cost overruns (\$46 million in the first two years), poor procurement practices, and a lack of effective contract oversight.¹ In 2011, the Subcommittee requested that the Inspector General conduct a follow-up review of the ATCOTS program to determine whether FAA had made any improvements in management of the contract.² The Inspector General plans to release its report in the next several weeks.

The hearing will review the Inspector General's findings. The hearing will also examine the FAA's response and actions taken to improve the management and oversight of air traffic controller training. In addition, the hearing will review FAA's plans to award a new contract, including the agency's planning process, requirements, cost analysis, and acquisition strategy.³

¹ U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General, *FAA'S Air Traffic Controller Optimum Training Solution Program: Sound Contract Management Practices Are Needed to Achieve Program Outcomes* (Sept. 30, 2010).

² Letter from Sen. Claire McCaskill, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight to Calvin L. Scovell, III, U.S. Department of Transportation Office Inspector General (Nov. 7, 2011).

³ Federal Aviation Administration, Contract Opportunities, *Controller Training Contract Market Survey* (Nov. 25, 2013) (online at faaco.faa.gov/index.cfm/announcement/view/15383).

Your testimony should address FAA's management of the program and contract, including the changes in requirements, related cost overruns, the use of award fees, and the early exercise of option years. Your testimony should also address what steps FAA has taken to address the Inspector General's recommendations. In addition, your testimony should assess whether any of the stated goals of the ATCOTS program have been realized, including plans for innovation, and what, if anything, the FAA plans to do differently in a new contract. Finally, your testimony should address the actual and projected costs to the taxpayer of the current ATCOTS contract and FAA's planned new contract, including the costs of any additional training or other services provided by air traffic controllers.

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 2:30 P.M. on January 10, 2014.** We also request that you provide a briefing on these issues for Subcommittee staff **by no later than January 3, 2014.**

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.

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 64 (113th Congress).

We look forward to your participation. Please contact Sarah Garcia with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-1014 or Teague Lyons with Senator Johnson's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-2254 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial &
Contracting Oversight



Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial &
Contracting Oversight