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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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March 25, 2014

Hubert Sparks
Inspector General
Appalachian Regional Commission
1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20009-1068

Dear Mr. Sparks:

We are writing to invite you to testify before the Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Oversight of Small Agencies." The hearing will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 10:00 A.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Vigorous oversight by an independent inspector general is one of the federal government's most important tools to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars. The purpose of the hearing is to review the processes and mechanisms by which small agencies and other federal entities without statutory inspectors general receive oversight. The hearing will examine the process by which small agencies contract with independent inspectors general for services. The hearing will also explore the role of the Council of Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) in ensuring that small agencies have adequate oversight. Finally, the hearing will examine potential legislative actions to improve the oversight of small agencies.

Your testimony should address the role of inspectors general at designated federal entities, including the unique oversight and administrative challenges faced by smaller inspector general offices. Your testimony should also address the appointment and oversight processes for inspectors general for designated federal entities, including any concerns regarding the extent to which these processes may impair the appearance of independence of the inspector general. In addition, your testimony should address the oversight of small agencies and how it can be provided in the most efficient and comprehensive manner. Finally, your testimony should discuss how small inspectors general participate in CIGIE.

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 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 8, 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.

Mr. Hubert Sparks
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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 Mike Howell with Senator Johnson's Subcommittee staff at (202) 228-0653 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial and
Contracting Oversight



Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial and
Contracting Oversight