

THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE, CHAIRMAN

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN
MARK L. PRYOR, ARKANSAS
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA
CLAIRE McCASKILL, MISSOURI
JON TESTER, MONTANA
MARK BEGICH, ALASKA
TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN
HEIDI HEITKAMP, NORTH DAKOTA

TOM COBURN, OKLAHOMA
JOHN MCCAIN, ARIZONA
RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO
RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY
MICHAEL B. ENZI, WYOMING
KELLY AYOTTE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

GABRIELLE A. BATKIN, STAFF DIRECTOR
KEITH B. ASHDOWN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

August 1, 2014

The Honorable Bruce Borzino
Director
National Technical Information Service
5301 Shawnee Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22312

Dear Mr. Borzino:

On July 23, 2014, the Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight held a hearing titled "A More Efficient and Effective Government: The National Technical Information Service." I thank you for your testimony at this hearing, as well as the cooperation and information your staff has provided to the Subcommittee during our investigation.

As part of the Subcommittee's ongoing investigation, I am writing to request information about National Technical Information Service's (NTIS) business operations to ensure that the joint venture authorities that the NTIS is operating under are efficient and comply with all requirements of the Federal Acquisition Regulation. In addition, I am also requesting information regarding NTIS's repository of scientific and technical documents.

To assist the Subcommittee with its oversight of NTIS, I request that your office provide the following documents and information:

- (1) Whether NTIS charges for a subscription to the information provided for free on the Wage Determinations Online site (www.wdol.gov);
- (2) If NTIS does charge for the subscription to the information provided on the Wage Determinations Online site, a list of agencies that have paid for this subscription and the total amount paid to date for the subscription broken out by agency;
- (3) The amount that the Department of Labor is charged on a monthly or yearly basis by NTIS to host the Wage Determinations Online site, including the total amount charged by NTIS to date, and the year NTIS began hosting the website;

- (4) An explanation for why NTIS does not provide “fugitive reports” to the Government Printing Office (GPO) for dissemination through the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP)¹;
- (5) An explanation of the business relationship that NTIS currently has with GPO and any memoranda of understanding between the two agencies to facilitate the sharing of reports, including dissemination to FDLP. Please include an explanation of the materials provided and procedures followed by NTIS for compliance with 15 U.S.C. 3704b (e) (3), which requires NTIS to make “selected bibliographic information products available in a timely manner to depository libraries”;
- (6) A date by when NTIS will update its website to include a larger notice of the availability of free reports elsewhere on the internet;
- (7) A date by when NTIS will release its database to the public using its new free public access model;
- (8) The amount charged to the Department of Commerce for each year from 2003 to 2013 for reports on the NTIS site;
- (9) A list of all agreements between NTIS and other federal agencies where NTIS provides any type of customer support or customer service to the other agencies, the specific nature of NTIS’s services, and the total revenues of each joint venture;
- (10) A list of services that NTIS provides to other federal agencies through NTIS’s joint ventures or public-private partnerships that NTIS believes cannot be obtained by any other means;
- (11) A breakout of the costs of each joint venture from 2009 to 2013, including the fee charged by NTIS to the serviced federal agencies, the total amount charged to NTIS labor, and the amount paid to each “partnering” contractor for services in the joint venture;
- (12) A copy of each joint venture agreement file from 2009 to 2013; and
- (13) An explanation of how NTIS monitors its library to ensure that reports are exclusively scientific, technical and engineering information, and how the NTIS ensures that reports from private sector organizations are not included in the repository.

We request that you provide the documents and information requested above and a briefing for Subcommittee staff as soon as possible, but no later than **Tuesday, September 9, 2014**.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Financial and 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).

¹ Fugitive documents are documents published by federal agencies that are eligible for the FDLP, but are not included in the program.

The Honorable Bruce Borzino
August 1, 2014
Page 3

I appreciate your assistance. Please contact Charlie Moskowitz or Tim Brennan with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-7155 with any questions. Please send any official correspondence relating to this request to Kelsey_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial and
Contracting Oversight

Cc: Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial and
Contracting Oversight

Cc: Tom Coburn
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and
Government Affairs