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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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June 24, 2019

The Honorable Dr. Mark T. Esper
Acting Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Acting Secretary Esper:

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is continuing to examine government contracting policies and procedures. I write today regarding a \$10 billion contract currently pending before the Department of Defense (DOD) that is reportedly under a Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (DOD OIG) investigation.¹

According to recent reports, DOD OIG opened an investigation examining potential conflicts of interest in the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure (JEDI) procurement process.² Apparently, at least two DOD employees who played a role in the JEDI procurement process had connections to a company bidding on the contract.³

Given the significant amount of taxpayer dollars associated with this particular contract, I respectfully request DOD to delay awarding this contract to any company until DOD OIG completes its investigation. If the investigation confirms the allegations of impropriety after the contract has already been awarded, it could significantly erode public trust in the fairness of the government procurement process and, if appropriate, may be very difficult to unwind a project that is already underway.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions about this letter, please have your staff contact Patrick Bailey of my staff at 202-224-4751.

¹ Jason Miller, *FBI DoD IG conducting preliminary investigation into JEDI, procurements*, FEDERAL NEWS NETWORK, March 4, 2019, <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/reporters-notebook-jason-miller/2019/03/fbi-dod-ig-conducting-preliminary-investigation-into-jedi-procurements/>.

² *Id.*

³ Ronn Blitzer, *Amazon, Pentagon accused of swampy dealings over \$10B contract*, FOX NEWS, June 19, 2019, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/amazon-pentagon-accused-of-swampy-dealings-over-10b-contract>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ron Johnson
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Gary Peters
Ranking Member