

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 14, 2012

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to request your support of the "Comprehensive Contingency Contracting Reform Act of 2012" (S. 2139). We have introduced this legislation in response to the final report to Congress by the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan, the creation of which was accomplished through legislation that we co-sponsored in 2007. The legislation will remedy structural, systemic, and technical problems identified in overseas contingency contracting over the past 11 years.

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support conducted hearings in the fall of 2011 to review the Commission's final report and recommendations. **Commissioners testified that the changes needed to remedy past mistakes by departments and agencies in wartime contracting will not occur without action by Congress.** Findings and recommendations by inspectors general and others contained in numerous investigations, studies, and reports also point to shortcomings in contingency contracting and failures to apply lessons learned over the past 11 years.

According to the final report of the bipartisan and independent Commission, released in August 2011, **since September 2001 the federal government has lost between \$31 and \$60 billion to waste and fraud in contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan.** The "Comprehensive Contingency Contracting Reform Act of 2012" builds upon the Commission's recommendations and the findings of our own congressional investigations and oversight hearings. The legislation would elevate oversight responsibility, improve management structures, expand planning requirements in advance of contingencies, and reform contracting practices applicable in overseas military contingencies.

The legislation would also increase the authority, responsibilities and involvement of inspectors general with the overall responsibility for oversight of contracting in contingency operations. Additionally, it would require the Defense Department, State Department, and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to establish clear lines of authority and responsibility for contractor support in advance of a military contingency.

To avoid repeating past mistakes in contingency contracting, federal agencies must finally address well-documented risks and challenges. We would welcome your support of this important bill. Please contact Alan Kahn in Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at 4-3230 or Gordon Peterson in Senator Webb's office at 8-5210 with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



Jim Webb
United States Senator