

**Opening Statement of Chairman Thomas R. Carper**  
**Management Matters: Creating a 21st Century Government – Part II, Outside Views**  
**March 31, 2014**

*As prepared for delivery:*

We are here today to conduct the second part of a series of hearings to examine how our government manages itself and what can be done to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

This hearing follows up on a hearing that the Committee held on March 12 to discuss the Administration's management agenda for the remainder of President Obama's second term. At that hearing, Beth Cobert from the Office of Management and Budget and Dan Tangherlini from the General Services Administration discussed the four pillars of the Administration's approach to good management: effectiveness and efficiency in government, how to drive economic growth, and how to recruit and train a talented and dedicated workforce.

Gene Dodaro from the Government Accountability Office also testified and suggested a few ways in which the Administration and Congress can work together to help to achieve the goals of the management agenda and save taxpayers some money in the long run.

Our hearing was a discussion of the challenges facing our government agencies, what the President wants to fix, and how we here in Congress can be partners in promoting smarter, more efficient, more effective government- familiar themes for many of us here in Congress and on this Committee.

Something I often like to say is that anything I do, I know I can do better. And I believe that is particularly true when it comes to government management. There is a lot of room for improvement.

Sadly, the challenges that we are facing are not new; for decades, both Republican and Democratic Administrations have struggled to correct inefficiencies and make government work better for the American people.

Government doesn't have to go it alone in its struggle to improve efficiency; there are private groups who have made it their mission to advise and help government agencies on how they can improve efficiency and spend taxpayer money more wisely.

Today, we continue the conversation that we started earlier this month. This time, though, we are receiving input from folks that represent a few of these outside groups.

Our witnesses want to see agencies and programs run well and achieve their missions efficiently and they understand the value of an effective government. They have personal experience in government, have gathered opinions from others, have done studies, have looked deeply at how government works or doesn't work, and they can inform us of what they have found.

I believe the non-profit and private sector groups like the ones that are represented today can prove to be valuable partners in advising our government on good management practices.

I look forward to discussing their thoughts on the Administration's management agenda and what they think are the best ways to tackle the four pillars I mentioned earlier: effectiveness, efficiency, economic growth, and people and culture.

Effective government management has long been a priority for this committee and I hope this hearing shines a spotlight on what management initiatives are being done well, what could be done better, and how Congress can help the Administration achieve this important goal.

Something that comes to mind is an old saying from President Truman, which I will paraphrase: 'the only things that are new to us are the things we never learned or the things we have forgotten.'

We have to learn from the lessons of past government workers and administrations so we don't repeat their mistakes. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses on what they believe can be done to set our government management on a more responsible course.

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