



**United States Senate**  
**Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs**  
Chairman Joseph I. Lieberman, ID-Conn.

Opening Statement of Chairman Joseph Lieberman  
“How to Save Taxpayer Dollars: Case Studies of Duplication in the Federal Government”  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee  
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**As Prepared for Delivery**

Good morning and welcome to this hearing. Thanks to our distinguished group of witnesses for being here. This hearing is on a recent report issued by the GAO, “Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars, and Enhance Revenue.” I don’t know that there could be a more timely report issued, as we grapple with our runaway deficits and debt, and the worry among the American people that our great country is heading over a cliff grows more anxious and deep.

The origin of this report will probably not be surprising to people who follow such things. The report is the result of an amendment that was introduced by Senator Tom Coburn and passed the Senate in last year’s request for an increase in the national debt limit. I thank him for what he did, and this report really justifies his introduction of the amendment.

The report lists a series of programs, agencies, offices, and initiatives with duplicative goals and activities within departments. In addition to listing 34 areas where duplication exists, it lists additional areas where areas exist either to enhance government operations or enhance revenue collection.

Today’s hearing will focus on the duplication of government programs and agencies. The cost saving and revenue section, however, also provides interesting ideas and opportunities about how to confront these twin problems of the deficit and the debt. I hope Gene Dodaro will discuss the report in general, as well as the specific topic areas we’re going to focus on today.

The three topic areas are enterprise architecture, consolidation of federal data centers, and the opportunity to increase government efficiency and collecting improved data on interagency contracting in a way that will best help the government leverage its buying power.

This is an excellent report, and we have a great panel of witnesses to help us understand how we can implement some of these ideas to reduce our deficit and our long-term debt. I look forward to both your testimony and the question and answer period.

Senator Collins.