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**United States Government Accountability Office  
Washington, DC 20548**

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August 20, 2007

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We received your letter dated June 24, 2007, jointly signed by several of your colleagues, requesting that the Government Accountability Office review a number of issues related to the creation and use of federally-funded research and development centers.

GAO accepts your request as work that is within the scope of its authority. To fully respond to your request, GAO plans to initiate work on this project in about three months when it is expected that staff with the required skills will be available. Your request has been assigned to Ms. Katherine V. Schinasi, Managing Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, who has staff available to begin the work. Ms. Schinasi or a member of her team will contact Mr. John Sopko to discuss the request and options for helping you meet your needs. As applicable, we will also be in contact with the cognizant Inspector General's office to ensure that we are not duplicating efforts. If an issue arises during this coordination, we will consult with you regarding its resolution.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Schinasi at 202-512-4383 or Ms. Rosa Harris, Assistant Director for Congressional Relations, on my staff at 202-512-9492.

Sincerely yours,

*Thery Frances Widener*

*for* Gloria L. Jarmon  
Managing Director for  
Congressional Relations

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