

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

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October 11, 2005

The Honorable Carlos Gutierrez
Secretary, Department of Commerce
Room 5421
Fourteenth Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Gutierrez:

We wrote to you on August 3, 2005, asking that you release the congressionally directed report on off-shoring professional jobs in the manufacturing and services industries. That report was due to Congress by June 30, 2004. Your response to our letter dated September 15, 2005, did provide a copy of a report, but you did not answer our question regarding why the report was so overdue, and the document you provided raises more questions.

The report provided by your Office is just 12 pages in length and has almost no substantive analysis or data. It reads more like an editorial in a popular magazine than an analytical report, and it resembles in no fashion the normal work product that we have come to expect from the Technology Administration at Commerce.

In addition, the report you delivered to us actually carries a date of June 2004. It took more than an additional year, and our letter, to shake this report out of the Department -- we do not understand your reticence to make this report public.

The report itself mentions the lack of data surrounding the issue of off-shoring as justification for its limited scope. This is an issue that has long concerned us as well. More than two years ago the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy commissioned the RAND Science and Technology Policy Institute to conduct a study on how to improve the collection of off-shoring data by Federal agencies. Although RAND provided several specific suggestions, the Administration has yet to implement these recommendations in any meaningful way. We have been so concerned that we have offered amendments to the Science Committee's mark-up of a bill on manufacturing policy. You will be happy to know that those amendments called for collecting more data. Unfortunately, the Republican majority opposed those amendments.

Our review of the report you sent us raises several questions that we would like answered:

1. What were the number of employee hours involved in preparing the report and its subsequent review?
2. Please identify the Technology Administration personnel who prepared the report.
3. What was the vetting process for this report? Please provide specific names and offices of those involved in the review and editing of this report and a timeline for when each office signed off on the report through the final clearance of the report for release. This list should include any offices or individuals outside the Department that may have received the report as part of the broader vetting process or to seek outside advice on the report. Complying with this information request should satisfy the question of our August 3 letter asking why this report was so late in being produced and released.
4. In December 2005, two TA analysts made a presentation (see attached) to the Association for Computing Machines based on their work funded by the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2004 (H.Rpt. 108-401). This power point presentation is significantly more detailed and comprehensive than the final report you provided to us. Indeed, the December 2004 presentation comes much closer to addressing the mandate originally proposed by Congress. That presentation is also consistent with the type of analytical work typically done by the Technology Administration. We would like copies of the original report produced by the Technology Administration analysts as well as all subsequent revisions made by the Department and other Federal officials so that we can understand how the final report came to be scrubbed of all information or analysis that might be useful for sound decision-making by Congress.

We look forward to receiving these additional reports by October 24, 2005. If you should have any further questions, please contact Dan Pearson, Democratic Professional Staff of the Committee on Science, at 202-225-4494.

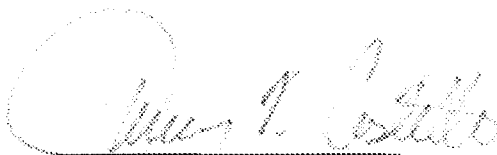
Sincerely,



BART GORDON
Ranking Member



DAVID WU
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Environment, Technology &
Standards



JERRY COSTELLO
Member of Congress