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July 24, 2008

The Honorable David L. Bibb
Acting Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Mr. Bibb:

I am writing to request that you consider whether it is a wise use of the taxpayers' money to proceed with the General Services Administration's Multiple Award Schedule Advisory Panel. According to the documents you provided to the Committee, no officials inside or outside the government — other than former Administrator Lurita Doan — expressed the view that this Advisory Panel was necessary. It would make little sense to continue with this initiative if there is no need for the advisory panel.

On March 28, 2008, GSA announced the establishment of the Multiple Award Schedule Advisory Panel to "review the MAS policy statements, implementing regulations, solicitation provisions and other related documents regarding the structure, use, and pricing for the MAS contract awards."¹ According to your predecessor, former Administrator Doan, she created this panel to address "growing frustration among our industry partners because there is some confusion over the auditing process and what will cause the pricing reduction clause to be triggered, when, why and how."²

On April 18, 2008, I wrote to Administrator Doan to request information about communications she or others at GSA had received from industry partners regarding the Advisory Panel. Specifically, I asked: "What individuals or companies outside GSA communicated with you or other GSA officials concerning the need for a GSA Multiple Award Schedule Advisory Panel?"³

¹ FR Doc. E8-6547, Vol. 73, Number 61 (Mar. 28, 2008).

² *GSA Forms Panel to Review Pricing Policies*, Government Executive (Apr. 18, 2008).

³ Letter from Rep. Henry A. Waxman, Chairman, to Lurita A. Doan, Administrator (Apr. 18, 2008).

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In response, you wrote to the Committee on May 9, 2008. Notwithstanding Administrator Doan's contention about "growing frustration among our industry partners," you stated in your letter that "[n]o official or company outside of GSA expressed a need for this panel to me."⁴ You also stated: "I am also not aware of an instance where the idea of the panel was discussed with any other GSA official."⁵

In your letter, you stated that GSA has a duty "to improve our service, products, and offerings to customers so that we provide taxpayers with the best value for their money."⁶ I share your conviction. It is unclear, however, how the advisory panel will accomplish this goal. For these reasons, I request that you consider whether it makes sense to continue to expend taxpayer funds on this initiative, which you have confirmed was neither called for by industry nor discussed among anyone at GSA other than former Administrator Doan.

If you have any questions, please contact David Leviss of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5420.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman

cc: Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member

⁴ Letter from David L. Bibb, Acting Administrator, to Rep. Henry A. Waxman, Chairman (May 9, 2008).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*