Susan E Howards <showards@fs.fed.us>

12/04/2002 02:05:01 PM

Record Type: Record

To: David C. Childs A-76comments/OMB/EOP@EOP

CC:

Subject: Competitive Source

I have been with the federal government since 1964. I have seen examples of some of the contract work that is done by private companies at our facility. The employees for these contractors have nothing invested in our facility, so they really don't care what type of job they do here. When we had our own federal employees in charge of the housecleaning and maintenance of our facility the place was cleaner. We have had several different contract cleaners through the years and the first few months they do a fairly decent job and then they tend to go downhill. They don't work here, they don't care what this place looks like - there is no pride involved in this job.

I think we have just become another number to them - just one more contract they have to fill. Also, what is to prevent these contractors to submit a low bid, get the contract and then gradually sneak up the cost of their services. At least with a federal employee, you have a fair constant of knowing what your expenses will be.

We already can't purchase items from vendors that we know are of better quality, because we can't support a monpoly. Do you realize how much money that wastes!! I am not saying that some small vendors don't have quality items, but many of them don't. Then we end up paying more for the item and perhaps even having to order another one because their's is broken!

We can't buy certain computers etc., even though they would be more efficient and save the government (taxpayers) money. No, we sometimes spend 3 times as much for something just because of the rules! There is so much time wasted with some of the programs we have to work with. We use outdated, inefficient systems.

I could go on and on about the government waste I have seen, but it is to no avail. For some reason the government seems destined to destroy itself. After you have contracted out all of our jobs, you will realize this decision was wrong.

Susan E. Howards Secretary RWU 4710&PTL