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

cc:

Subject: Response to your article.

First I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express a few comments, as a civil service employee I would like to express a few concerns about turning everything over to privatization. I have worked within the Air Force Material Command for the past twenty-three years, and I have witnessed my share of changes. Change is never easy but you learn to deal with it because in government it is a constant.

When my career began I worked side by side with several companies, Boeing, TRW, and Rockwell International just to name a few. Just because these were contractor didn't mean it was smooth sailing, we had to deal with government and the interaction with contractors. Obviously to the extent that their were problems with my superiors also, because these companies soon disappeared from off the base. This created a whole new set of problems, fewer and fewer contracts were being let out. Because of these new policy changes, the government believes it can now be done cheaper and better in house, and a new cycle begins. The point I am trying to make here is this; it appears that when decisions are made in dealing with government we can never find the middle of the road, we either swing to far to the right or to far to the left.

I have seen over the span of my career what happens when a contractor becomes prime on a contract, when they are sole source, prices increase and we become dependent. Please don't take me wrong, I believe the private sector needs to be a part of the big picture and we surely need them, but we also need federal government employees. somehow we need to stop swinging from left to right and find the balance, these swings become very expensive, as a taxpayer I for one believe it could be done more effectively and with more precision, without shifting from one side to the other.

I have seen what the outcome of an A-76 study can do, it is very costly not only monetarily but the effects on the immediate workload and employees is tremendous. Try to fill any positions that becomes vacant during an A-76 study, almost impossible. This places a tremendous burden on existing employees left to carry on the work. Contracting and privatization will no doubt become a reality, but let's do it smart!

***Kimberly E. Stratton***