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To: David C. Childs A-76comments/OMB/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Submitting Federal Jobs to Private Sector Bidding = Good!

Dear Office of Management and Budget,

I heartily support the Administration's goal to subject all 850,000 federal workers performing commercial activities to competition and to bring about outsourcing and privatization where appropriate. Furthermore, I commend the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) for seeking to improve Circular A-76, which has become an impediment to competition and appropriate privatization of commercial activities provided by federal agencies. I support the November 2002 Circular A-76 revisions. Entrepreneurs and workers will have new opportunities to seek work previously unavailable to the private sector, and the revisions will help eliminate unfair government competition. I support the provisions that eliminate Unfair Competition under Agency-to-Agency arrangements and particularly support the presumption that all activities are "presumed to be commercial", as this reinforces and supports the longstanding policy of both Democrat and Republican Administrations to rely on the private sector for goods and services.

The more commercial federal jobs submitted to private sector bidding the better. Study after study has shown that private companies can perform a plethora of federal jobs not only for less money, but also more efficiently, effectively, and at a higher quality. Although I am in full support of your attempts to improve A-76, I am concerned about two important factors. First of all, I fear that a company who secures a job at the first bid will be treated preferentially during the next bidding cycle and establish a monopoly on the service just as damaging as the one our Government currently holds on these jobs. A competitive spirit must be sustained after the first biddings so that Americans can continually receive quality services at the lowest rates. Which brings me to my second concern; I am afraid that the bidding process, like those of the past, will focus solely on price disregarding quality. A governing body must be established to thoroughly research and compare those companies submitting bids to ensure the highest quality work can be had for the lowest amount of money. To this end, this body must have enough freedom within the laws governing its decision making process to take into account such unquantifiable characteristics as quality. And yet at the same time, we must be certain that those within the governing body do not use this freedom to reward friends and practice other forms of corruption.

Thank you for accepting comments in regards to A-76; it is only right to consult those whose money is spent on the government services shaped by your decisions.

Sincerely,

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