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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 23, 2012

The Honorable Jim Webb
United States Senator
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Webb:

We are writing to invite you to testify before the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "The Comprehensive Contingency Contracting Reform Act of 2012." The hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 10:30 A.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

As you know, in its final report to Congress, the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan (the Commission) found that "[a]t least \$31 billion, and possibly as much as \$60 billion, has been lost to contract waste and fraud in America's contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan." This assessment did not include the costs of projects that cannot be sustained, which will increase the estimate by billions. In addition to the financial costs, the Commission found that "poor planning, management, and oversight of contracts ... damaged [U.S. defense, diplomatic, and development] objectives." The Commission concluded that "[t]he nation's security demands nothing less than sweeping reform."¹

On February 29, 2012, you and Senator Claire McCaskill introduced S. 2139, "The Comprehensive Contingency Contracting Reform Act of 2012." The legislation builds upon the Commission's recommendations in its final report to Congress. The purpose of this hearing is to review S.2139. The hearing will examine the need for the legislation and assess the steps taken by departments and agencies to date to implement the Commission's recommendations. The hearing will also provide an opportunity to discuss what additional measures, if any, would be required to fully address the Commission's findings.

We invite you to testify at the hearing regarding this legislation. We would welcome your insights regarding the legislation's requirements for the management of service contracts, strengthened suspension and debarment provisions, and inclusion of contract support in planning documents and professional training. Your testimony may also discuss the need for clear lines of authority and responsibility for contractor support in overseas contingency operations as well as the need for the Department of Defense, Department of State, and USAID to have improved management structures and reformed contracting and oversight practices applicable in overseas contingency operations.

¹ Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan, Final Report to Congress, *Transforming Wartime Contracting: Controlling Costs, Reducing Risks* (Aug. 31, 2011).

The Honorable Jim Webb
March 23, 2012
Page 2

The Subcommittee requests that you summarize your testimony in 5 minutes, although a longer written statement may be submitted for the official record. **Subcommittee rules require that your testimony be submitted by no later than 10:30 A.M. on Friday, April 13, 2012.** Please send an electronic copy of your written statement and a brief one page biography to Subcommittee Clerk, Kelsey Stroud, at Kelsey_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight is set forth in Senate Rule XXV clause 1(k); Senate Resolution 445 section 101 (108th Congress); and Senate Resolution 73 (111th Congress).

We look forward to your participation. Please contact Alan Kahn with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-3230 or Senator Portman's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-3353 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight



Rob Portman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight