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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

MICHAEL L. ALEXANDER, STAFF DIRECTOR
BRANDON L. MILHORN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

June 30, 2009

Shay D. Assad
Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing
Department of Defense
Room 3B855
3060 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-3060

Dear Mr. Assad:

We are writing to invite you to testify before the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Contracting Preferences for Alaska Native Corporations." The hearing will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2009 at 2:30 P.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine concerns relating to the award of contracts to Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) through the Small Business Administration's 8(a) program. The preference given to Alaska Native Corporations in federal procurement was intended to provide economic opportunities for impoverished Alaskan communities. In recent years, however, critics have identified these preferences as a vehicle for avoiding competition and passing work through to large, non-Native contractors. The hearing will examine new findings from federal auditors and explore abuses in the award, management, and oversight of these contract vehicles.

Your testimony should address the role of the ANCs in the 8(a) program. You should highlight issues relating to the adequacy of the Defense Department's management and oversight of ANCs. You should also discuss issues relating to the competitive and other advantages enjoyed by ANCs in obtaining Defense Department 8(a) contracts.

The Subcommittee requests that you summarize your testimony in 5 minutes, although a longer written statement may be submitted for the official record. This will allow adequate time for you to engage in questions and answers with members of the Subcommittee. Subcommittee rules require that your testimony be submitted by 2:30 P.M. on Tuesday, July 14, 2009. 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.

We look forward to your participation in this hearing. Please contact Margaret Daum with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-8316 or Molly Wilkinson with Senator Collins' Subcommittee staff at (202) 228-3141 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Senator Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight



Senator Susan Collins
Acting Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight