

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT, CHAIRMAN

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN
DANIEL K. AKAKA, HAWAII
THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE
MARK L. PRYOR, ARKANSAS
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA
CLAIRE McCASKILL, MISSOURI
JON TESTER, MONTANA
MARK BEGICH, ALASKA

SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE
TOM COBURN, OKLAHOMA
SCOTT P. BROWN, MASSACHUSETTS
JOHN MCCAIN, ARIZONA
RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO
RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY
JERRY MORAN, KANSAS

MICHAEL L. ALEXANDER, STAFF DIRECTOR
NICHOLAS A. ROSSI, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

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

June 13, 2011

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to invite you or your designee to testify before the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Afghanistan Reconstruction Contracts: Lessons Learned and Ongoing Problems." The hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. This hearing is the fifth in a planned series of hearings covering actual and potential waste, fraud, and abuse in Afghanistan contracts.

The purpose of the hearing is to assess the management and oversight of reconstruction contracts in Afghanistan. In particular, the hearing will focus on the extent to which the Defense Department and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have applied lessons learned since the beginning of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The hearing will also review the continuing problems with Afghanistan contracts, including lack of planning, lack of transparency, and inadequate oversight. The hearing will also provide an opportunity to review the latest findings of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) regarding the management and oversight of construction contracts.

Your testimony should address Defense Department reconstruction and development contracts in Afghanistan, including use of the Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) and the Afghan First program for construction. In particular, your testimony should address recent concerns raised about cost overruns, inadequate training for contracting officials, lack of quality assurance, allegations of corruption, insufficient subcontractor transparency, problems with vetting contractors, lack of sustainability, and difficulties in coordinating military and civilian planning for construction contracts in Afghanistan.

To assist the Subcommittee in preparing for the hearing, we request that you provide the following information and documents relating to Department of Defense contracts with Contrack International Inc., Kabuljan Construction Co., United Infrastructure Projects Inc., and Red Sea Construction Co., from FY07-FY11:

- (1) The contract number, scope of work, and obligations for all prime contracts, including evaluations, notices to show cause, and audits.

The Honorable Robert Gates
June 13, 2011
Page 2

We request that you provide this information as soon as possible, but in no case later than **June 21, 2011**. If you determine that you will be unable to make a complete production by this date, please contact Subcommittee staff to discuss possible modifications to this schedule.

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). An attachment to this letter provides additional information about how to respond to the Subcommittee's request.

We request 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 no later than 10:00 A.M. on Friday, June 24, 2011.** Please send official correspondence relating to this request and invitation, including 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. Please contact Alan Kahn with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-3230 or Brian Callanan with Senator Portman's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-4148 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight



Rob Portman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight