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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

November 22, 2011

The Honorable Gordon S. Heddell  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Defense  
400 Army Navy Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202-4704

Dear Mr. Heddell:

We are writing to invite you or your designee to testify before the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Whistleblower Protections for Government Contractors." The hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to review the "Non-Federal Employee Whistleblower Protection Act," a bill that was introduced by Senator McCaskill to bolster whistleblower protections for government contractors and other non-federal employees. The hearing will also review whether current whistleblower protections for contractors working under Defense Department and Recovery Act contracts have been effective in encouraging reports of waste, fraud, and abuse. It will also examine whether these protections have had any adverse impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of government acquisition and procurement. Finally, the hearing will explore what additional legislation may be needed to encourage and protect contractor whistleblowers in the disclosure of waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars.

Your testimony should address existing protections for contractor whistleblowers under Defense Department contracts and how your office receives and investigates complaints of whistleblower retaliation. You should also address the contributions made by Defense Department contractor whistleblowers to the mission of the Inspector General, including, if possible, the number of indictments and convictions and the value of monetary recoveries stemming from disclosures from contractor whistleblowers. You should also be prepared to discuss your view of the Non-Federal Employee Whistleblower Protection Act and the legislation's anticipated impact on the Office of Inspector General.

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 no later than 10:00 A.M. on Friday, December 2, 2011.** 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](mailto: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 (108<sup>th</sup> Congress); and Senate Resolution 73 (111<sup>th</sup> Congress).

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We look forward to your participation. Please contact Sarah Garcia with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-1014 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