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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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February 21, 2014

The Honorable Rajiv Shah
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20523

Dear Dr. Shah:

On January 29, 2014, I wrote to you to request complete and unredacted copies of assessments of Afghan ministries conducted by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) contractors and staff. I requested that these documents be provided to the Subcommittee on or before February 7, 2014. As of the date of this letter, USAID has failed to provide the documents as requested.

On February 6, 2014, Subcommittee staff met with officials from USAID and the State Department regarding my recent request for unredacted copies of audits of Afghan ministries conducted under contract by Ernst & Young and KPMG and additional assessments, known as "Stage 2" assessments, conducted by USAID, in response to those audits.¹ At the meeting, USAID staff provided redacted copies of the audits conducted by the contractors. On February 18, 2014, USAID provided redacted copies of the Stage 2 assessments.

USAID's failure to provide unredacted copies of these reports is interfering with the Subcommittee's legitimate oversight. For example, the name of the USAID official who received the contractor audits is redacted, which impedes the Subcommittee's ability to assess accountability at USAID. The audits also include charts that explain the risks identified at each ministry and recommendations for mitigation strategies in which both the risks and the recommendations are redacted. Without access to this information, the Subcommittee's ability to adequately assess the risk to U.S. taxpayer dollars will be compromised.

USAID has also failed to provide any legitimate reason why this information cannot be provided as requested. I therefore request that you provide the information as soon as possible, and in no case later than **February 28, 2014**. If you decline to comply with my request, I request that you provide a written response explaining why USAID will not provide the unredacted documents, including USAID's legal justification for refusing to provide a Subcommittee of the

¹ Letter from Chairman Claire McCaskill to Administrator Rajiv Shah, U.S. Agency for International Development (Jan. 29, 2014).

The Honorable Rajiv Shah
February 21, 2014
Page 2

United States Senate with copies of unclassified documents necessary to carry out its constitutional oversight responsibilities.

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 64 (113th Congress).

Please have your staff contact Sarah Garcia with the Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-5602 with any questions. Please send any official correspondence related to this request to Kelsey Stroud at Kelsey_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial and
Contracting Oversight

cc: Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial and
Contracting Oversight