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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

MICHAEL L. ALEXANDER, STAFF DIRECTOR
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December 14, 2010

The Honorable Phyllis K. Fong
Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Chair, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency
1400 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Ms. Fong:

On Thursday, November 18, 2010, the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight held a hearing entitled, "Oversight of Reconstruction Contracts in Afghanistan and the Role of the Special Inspector General." Among other topics, the hearing addressed the decision by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction to award a \$95,000 contract to Joseph Schmitz to be an "independent monitor" of SIGAR's performance.

At the hearing, I asked questions relating to allegations of ethical misconduct surrounding Mr. Schmitz' resignation from his position as Inspector General of the Department of Defense. The Subcommittee has learned that the Integrity Committee of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency completed several reviews relating to allegations of ethical or other misconduct by Mr. Schmitz, including an investigation conducted by the Inspector General for the U.S. Postal Service in 2006. The Subcommittee has also learned that Senator Charles Grassley repeatedly raised concerns regarding Mr. Schmitz to the Integrity Committee and asked the Integrity Committee to conduct additional reviews of Mr. Schmitz' conduct.

To assist the Subcommittee in its ongoing oversight, I request that you provide unredacted copies of all reports and reviews, including attachments, relating to Mr. Schmitz' conduct while Inspector General, including materials prepared to respond to questions raised by Senator Grassley. I also request that you provide unredacted copies of all communications between the Integrity Committee and Mr. Schmitz and/or his representatives. I request that you provide the requested documents on or before **January 5, 2011**.

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.

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Please have your staff contact Margaret Daum at (202) 228-3862 with any questions.
Please send any official correspondence relating to this request to
kelsey_stroud@hsgac.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

cc: Scott Brown
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

Attachment