

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 23, 2010

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We are writing to request that you begin the process of removing Arnold Fields as Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) consistent with the requirements outlined in section 3(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978.

Over the last 18 months, we have repeatedly raised concerns regarding the performance of the SIGAR. We first brought this issue to your attention in March 2009, when we wrote to you regarding SIGAR's failure to hire sufficient staff to perform its mission. In December 2009, we wrote to you again regarding SIGAR's continued difficulties with performing aggressive, independent oversight. At that time, we requested that you initiate a comprehensive review of SIGAR, including its staff, operations, and execution of its mission, in order to determine if improvements could be made.

The Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) recently completed three reviews of the SIGAR, the final results of which were made public on August 10, 2010. CIGIE found multiple deficiencies in SIGAR's performance, the most alarming of which was SIGAR's failure to meet the applicable minimum standards for conducting investigations. As a result of this failure, CIGIE has recommended that the Department of Justice consider revoking SIGAR's law enforcement authority.

CIGIE also found multiple major deficiencies with SIGAR's audits, including the failure to meet minimum standards for quality control. This leaves SIGAR's audit findings ripe for challenges by auditees. In addition, the CIGIE review found that SIGAR leadership has focused on producing a high quantity of audits while broadly disregarding the quality of the audits. CIGIE further found that SIGAR has no meaningful strategic plan for audits or investigations, a substantial flaw in an oversight organization.

The independent findings of the CIGIE indicate that SIGAR is a failing organization, the same concern we have previously raised with you. Equally disconcerting, however, is how SIGAR has responded to the review. SIGAR has downplayed or simply failed to grasp the nature of the CIGIE review. It has not moved to establish adequate audit or investigation plans,

Page two
September 23, 2010
President Obama

and it is not clear that current leadership at SIGAR have the competence to lead its organization in establishing such baseline structural plans.

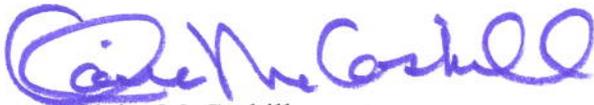
We were also alarmed to learn that SIGAR has awarded a \$95,000, sole-source contract to Joseph Schmitz, a former Department of Defense Inspector General, to act as an "independent monitor" of SIGAR's performance. As you may recall, Mr. Schmitz resigned from the Defense Department in 2005 amid allegations of ethical misconduct, including obstructing criminal investigations, quashing audits, and misleading Congress. The decision to pay Mr. Schmitz to assist in correcting SIGAR's own failures raises serious questions regarding Mr. Fields' judgment.

It has been clear for several months that SIGAR's mission is not being served effectively. It is for this reason that we have concluded that SIGAR would be better served with new leadership. We urge you to replace Mr. Fields with an individual who will oversee the significant organizational change needed within the SIGAR to provide adequate oversight of the billions of dollars of spending on reconstruction in Afghanistan.

We urge you to act now. We are disappointed by your Administration's ongoing failure to take decisive action to make changes at SIGAR.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



Tom A. Coburn, M.D.
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Charles Grassley
United States Senator

cc: Hon. Robert Gates, Secretary, U.S. Department of Defense
Hon. Hillary Clinton, Secretary, U.S. Department of State