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COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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December 14, 2010

Daniel R. Petrole
Acting Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
United States Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Mr. Petrole:

I am writing to request that you review allegations of contract fraud and whistleblower retaliation occurring within the Labor Department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS).

The Subcommittee recently received reports that VETS contracting officials have been compelled by VETS management, including the Assistant Secretary for VETS, to award non-competitive contracts for advisory and assistance services from an individual named Stewart Liff. According to these reports, the Assistant Secretary has also allowed Mr. Liff to participate in actions which may be inherently governmental, including decisions regarding the promotion, hiring, and termination of federal employees. In addition, the Subcommittee has learned that the individuals who have reported these concerns to their management and to your office may have suffered retaliation from VETS management.

If true, both the underlying allegations of contract abuse and the allegations of retaliation are very troubling. However, our office does not have the resources to assist the individuals who have contacted us at this time. As a result, I request that you conduct a thorough investigation of this matter.

I appreciate your assistance. Please have your staff contact Margaret Daum at (202) 224-8316 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