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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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September 21, 2011

The Honorable Phyllis K. Fong
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Room 117-W Jamie Whitten Bldg.
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Ms. Fong:

We are writing to invite you or your designee to testify before the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Food Service Management Contracts: Are Contractors Overcharging the Government?" The hearing will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The federal government spends billions of dollars every year on contracts for food service management at military installations and bases, hospitals, and government buildings and through the federal school lunch program. The purpose of the hearing is to examine whether food service management contractors are withholding rebates, discounts, and credits which should be passed through to the federal government. The hearing will review examples of this practice and assess steps taken by agencies and governments to ensure that contractors are in compliance with rebate requirements. The hearing will also address the need for increased transparency, oversight, and accountability.

Your testimony should address the audit work your office has done on the issue of rebate withholding in federal school lunch program contracts, including audits released in 2002 and 2005, as well as the new audit announced in June 2011. In addition, your testimony should address general issues related to rebate withholding and what steps USDA has taken to improve oversight in this area.

We request 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 2:00 P.M. on Monday, October 3, 2011.** Please send official correspondence relating to this request and invitation, including an electronic copy of your written statement and a brief one page biography, to Subcommittee Clerk, Kelsey Stroud, at 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 (108th Congress); and Senate Resolution 73 (111th 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