

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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ARMED SERVICES
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INDIAN AFFAIRS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE
ON INVESTIGATIONS

May 8, 2008

The Honorable Stephen J. Hadley
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20504

Dear Mr. Hadley:

Effective protection of technologies critical to U.S. national security interests have been categorized as being at high risk by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Multiple agencies are responsible for administering these programs, including the Departments of Commerce, Defense, State and Treasury. While each program reportedly has its own set of challenges, GAO found that these weaknesses are largely attributable to poor coordination within complex interagency processes, inefficiencies in program operations, and a lack of evaluations for regularly assessing program effectiveness and identifying corrective actions. The effective protection of technologies critical to U.S. national security interests was designated as being at high risk in 2007.

I am writing to express my concern that recommendations made by GAO in recent years to address weaknesses and inefficiencies in protecting these technologies have largely been ignored and have not been implemented. It is well understood that institutional change is often complex and takes both time and resources to transform these often unwieldy programs. However, strategic planning and executive intervention can yield staggering results with disciplined management and oversight. As Assistant Secretary to the President for National Security Affairs, you are uniquely positioned to guide this process.

According to the GAO, the responsible agencies currently have numerous reports with multiple issues identified by the GAO that remain outstanding. What actions has the Administration taken to address these issues and achieve removal from the GAO high risk list in January 2009? Your prompt response is greatly appreciated.

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Please do not hesitate to contact me or Sheldon Shoemaker of my staff at (202) 228-6476 if you would like to discuss these concerns or other matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claire McCaskill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Claire" and last name "McCaskill" clearly legible.

CLAIRE McCASKILL
United States Senator