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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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April 18, 2008

The Honorable Lurita A. Doan
Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Madam Administrator:

On March 28, 2008, the General Services Administration (GSA) announced the establishment of a GSA Multiple Award Schedule Advisory Panel.¹ According to the notice in the Federal Register, “the panel will review the MAS policy statements, implementing regulations, solicitation provisions and other related documents regarding the structure, use, and pricing for the MAS contract awards.” A news account quoted a prospective panel member describing the panel’s “chief focus” as examining the “Price Reduction Clause”: “The panel will look at whether the clause is needed or needs to be changed or if there is enough competition at the task order level so the clause is no longer needed.”²

The Price Reduction Clause requires that, if government contractors offer commercial customers special discounts, the contractors must make those same discounts available to federal government purchasers. The requirement is a powerful tool that helps government agencies get “Most Favored Customer” pricing when they order items under a GSA contract. An initiative to eliminate or weaken the clause could significantly increase costs to the taxpayer.

To help the Committee understand the purpose of the new advisory committee, I request that you provide the Committee with all documents prior to March 28, 2008, relating to the formation of the GSA Multiple Award Schedule Advisory Panel. In addition, please provide the following information:

- What individuals or companies outside GSA communicated with you or other GSA officials concerning the need for a GSA Multiple Award Schedule Advisory Panel?

¹ FR Doc. E8-6547, Vol. 73, Number 61 (Mar. 28, 2008).

² *GSA Looking for Advice*, Federal News Radio (Mar. 31, 2008).

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- What entities or offices will be represented on the GSA Multiple Award Schedule Advisory Panel and who has GSA invited to serve on the GSA Multiple Award Schedule Advisory Panel?
- What is the scope of the GSA Multiple Award Schedule Advisory Panel's charter or mandate?

I ask that you provide this information to the Committee by May 9, 2008.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the House of Representatives and has broad oversight jurisdiction as set forth in House Rule X. Enclosed with this letter is a document providing additional information about how to respond to the Committee's document request.

If you have any questions, please contact David Leviss or David Rapallo of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5420.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman

cc: Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member