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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

September 14, 2006

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Pentagon
Arlington, Virginia 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

On September 7, 2006, the Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information and International Security held a hearing titled *IT Projects At Risk: Is It Too Late To Save \$12 Billion?* The purpose of the hearing was to examine how the Federal Government manages risk within its \$64 billion information technology (IT) budget. As a result of the hearing, I am interested in obtaining some important information related to your agency's ongoing IT projects.

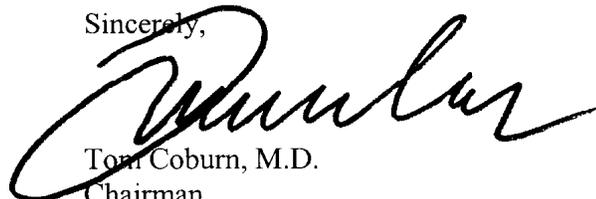
As you know, managing IT projects is a complex and difficult task due to the constant threat of cost overruns, schedule delays and performance deficiencies. Because of this, it is not uncommon for a project that is experiencing problems in any of these areas to begin with one baseline cost, only to be given a new baseline once more realistic expectations are determined. It is essential for Congress to understand the extent to which "re-baselining" occurs within federal IT projects to ensure projects are being delivered on-time and on-budget. I believe that the Federal Government must exercise vigilance in the area of IT management on behalf of taxpayers who both fund and rely upon those investments.

Therefore, I am requesting that you provide the Subcommittee with the following:

- A complete list of all on-going IT projects at your agency worth \$250,000 or more, except those for which disclosure would directly compromise national security;
- For each IT project, the year in which it began receiving funding, its original baseline estimate, how much has been spent on it to date, whether there has been any cost overruns associated with the projects, and whether the project has ever been given a new baseline estimate as well as what that new estimate was; and
- The name of the vendor(s) or contractor(s) involved with each project.

Please provide this information to the Subcommittee by Friday, October 13, 2006. I thank you in advance for your help in this matter and look forward to working together to ensure taxpayer money is spent in the most effective way possible when making information technology investments. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Chris Barkley of my staff at (202) 224-2254.

Sincerely,



Tom Coburn, M.D.

Chairman

Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management,
Government Information, and
International Security