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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250
December 19, 2005

MICHAEL D. BOPP, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL
JOYCE A. RECHTSCHAFFEN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR AND COUNSEL

Samuel Mok
Chief Financial Officer
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room S4512
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Mr. Mok:

We are writing in regard to your compliance with the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (IPIA). The Department of Labor has found Unemployment Insurance (UI), Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) at high risk for making improper payments. We are encouraged that even though these programs do not meet the definition of "significant" according to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) implementation guidance, the Department still plans to continue to identify corrective actions to reduce improper payments in these programs and establish improper payment reduction and overpayment recovery targets.

As part of our oversight of the effectiveness and efficiency of Federal financial management, our Subcommittee needs to have the best data available so that we know what work on improper payments remains to be done. The ultimate goal is to eliminate improper payments in federal agencies and illustrate impeccable stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

In light of this goal, please provide our Subcommittee with answers to the following questions:

- 1) What, if any, incentives are currently in place to encourage reporting of improper payments?
- 2) What challenges does your agency face in meeting IPIA requirements?
- 3) In what ways can Congress help you meet the goals that you have set?

Please provide and return the requested information to

Liz Scranton, Chief Clerk
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
439 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Please contact Robin Landauer with Senator Coburn's staff at 202.224.2254 or John Kilvington with Senator Carper's staff at 202.224.7061 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Tom Coburn
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management,
Government Information, and International Security



Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management,
Government Information, and International Security