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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250
December 19, 2005

Paul Corts

Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Attorney General for Administration
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 1111
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Corts:

We are writing in regard to your agency's compliance with the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (IPIA). We were pleased to read in DOJ's 2005 PAR that no programs were deemed to be at "significant" risk of making improper payments for fiscal year 2005. However, we remain skeptical of this determination because our Subcommittee awaits answers to correspondence sent to your agency on September 15, 2005 (please see enclosed letter). We would like answers to the independent auditor's (KPMG) claim that the risk assessment of improper payments did not include the following programs: the Southwest Border Prosecution Initiative, Bulletproof Vest Partnership, State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, and non-grant disbursements.

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.

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