



One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 2020

Tony H. Pham
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Mr. Pham:

I write to express concerns and request information related to reports that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) awarded millions of dollars in contracts to Berkeley Research Group, the company where Mr. Chad Wolf's wife is employed, after he rejoined the Department in 2017.¹

Based on federal procurement data, DHS awarded two contracts to Berkeley Research Group, both of which were issued by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):

- Contract 70CMSD18P00000168 awarded in September 2018 for a potential total value of \$6.6 million, and
- Contract 70CMSD19P00000141 awarded in September 2019 for a potential total value of \$1.1 million.²

The data also show that both contracts were awarded non-competitively using simplified acquisition procedures for commercial items.³ The timing of these awards and lack of competition raises concerns about the possibility of inappropriate influence on ICE's contracting decision.

¹ Julia Ainsley, *DHS awarded \$6 million in contracts to firm where Acting Secretary Wolf's wife is executive*, NBC NEWS, Sept. 23, 2020, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/dhs-awarded-6-million-contracts-firm-where-acting-secretary-wolf-n1240773>.

² USASPENDING.GOV, Sept. 23, 2020, https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT_AWD_70CMSD18P00000168_7012_-NONE_-NONE- and https://www.usaspending.gov/award/CONT_AWD_70CMSD19P00000141_7012_-NONE_-NONE-.

³ Ibid.

To enable the Committee to better understand the circumstances of these awards, I request that ICE provide the following documents no later than October 1, 2020:

- copies of the complete contract files, including the documents required for simplified acquisition procedures for commercial items outlined in FAR part 13.501(b).⁴

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Chairman

⁴ *Subpart 13.5 - Simplified Procedures for Certain Commercial Items*, FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATIONS, <https://www.acquisition.gov>.