



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

July 16, 2010

The Honorable Rafael Borrás
Under Secretary for Management
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Under Secretary Borrás:

On June 28, 2010, the White House's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a Memorandum on June 28, 2010, directing an immediate review of Financial Systems Information Technology Projects. According to the memorandum, "Federal Information Technology (IT) projects too often cost more than they should, take longer than necessary to deploy, and deliver solutions that do not meet our business needs . . . financial systems modernization projects in particular have consistently underperformed in terms of cost, schedule, and performance."¹ The memorandum further instructs "all CFO Act agencies to immediately halt the issuance of new task orders or new procurements for all financial systems projects pending review and approval from OMB."²

As a CFO Act agency in the process of procuring a new financial system project, to wit, the Transformation and Systems Consolidation program, (TASC), the Department of Homeland Security's (Department) TASC procurement falls squarely within the purview of this OMB Memorandum. Accordingly, we write to obtain information regarding the manner in which the Department will respond to this OMB guidance.

As you know, over the past year, the Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Management, Investigations and Oversight has heard testimony from Department senior officials, the Department's Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office on the need to establish a "One DHS" approach to financial management. While we fully support this concept, serious reservations regarding the projected \$450 million cost of the TASC contract remains. The Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Government

¹ EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, *Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies: Immediate Review of Financial Systems IT Projects*, Director Peter Orszag, June 28, 2010.

² *Id*

Accountability Office (GAO) have expressed reservations concerning financial management projects like TASC.³

Pursuant to Rule X (3)(g) and Rule XI of the United States House of Representatives, please provide the Committee, no later than July 30, 2010, with detailed written responses to the following inquires:

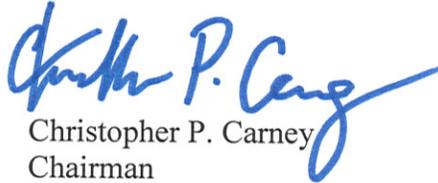
1. Indicate whether the issuance of a new procurement for TASC has been halted as instructed by the OMB Memorandum.
2. Describe what impact the OMB Memorandum will have on the future of TASC.
3. State whether, in light of the OMB Memorandum, the Department is considering alternate financial consolidation options, and if so please describe in detail the options being considered.
4. State whether OMB has begun its review of the TASC program and if not, please indicate when the review is scheduled to begin.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Cherri Branson, Chief Oversight Counsel to the House Committee on Homeland Security or Tamla Tymus Scott, Subcommittee Director for the Subcommittee on Management, Investigations and Oversight at (202) 226-2616.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



Christopher P. Carney
Chairman
Subcommittee on Management, Investigations and
Oversight

³ See generally, "Creating 'One DHS' Part I: Standardizing Department of Homeland Security Financial Management" hearing before the Subcomm. on Management, Investigations and Oversight of the House Comm. on Homeland Security Subcommittee, 111th Cong., Oct. 29, 2009 (testimony of Mr. James L. Taylor, Deputy Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security and Ms. Kay L. Daly, Director, Financial Management and Assurance Issues, Government Accountability Office). See also, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL, *DHS Needs to Address Challenges to Its Financial Systems Consolidation Initiative*, OIG-10-95 (June 28, 2010) and GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, *Financial Management Systems: DHS Faces Challenges to Successfully Consolidating Its Existing Disparate Systems*, GAO-10-76 (December 2009).