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June 7, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Feinstein:

As Congress continues its work on the fiscal year 2019 appropriations bills, I invite your attention to an important tool for identifying and eliminating waste and duplication across the government: the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, *Additional Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Other Financial Benefits*, GAO-18-371SP, issued in April 2018.

Since 2011, this annual report has introduced more than 700 action items across 275 issue areas for Congress and executive branch agencies to reduce, eliminate, or better manage fragmentation, overlap, or duplication; achieve cost savings; and enhance revenue. Agencies and Congress have completely or partially addressed approximately 76 percent of these actions, which GAO estimates has produced approximately $178 billion in savings and other financial benefits.

But more work remains. This year's report, which was the subject of a recent hearing of the Senate Committee on the Budget, identifies actions that have yet to be addressed – including new actions identified for the first time and those that are only partially addressed. GAO estimates that by fully implementing these open actions, tens of billions of dollars could be saved without adversely affecting services on which many American rely. There are a number of actions relevant to your subcommittee, which I have provided in the enclosure attached along with a copy of the full report.

By implementing the actions in GAO's report, Congress can improve government performance and stewardship of taxpayer dollars. This is a goal that I believe both parties share, and I ask for your careful consideration of these items as the fiscal year 2019 appropriations process moves forward.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Alison McGuire on my Budget Committee staff at (202) 224-2887.

Sincerely,



Michael B. Enzi
Chairman

Enclosure

Recommendations of the Government Accountability Office on "Additional Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Other Financial Benefits"
GAO Report Number: GAO-18-371SP

Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

Open GAO recommendations to Congress:

- Congress should enact legislation to streamline existing requirements and provide federal vehicle fleet managers more flexibility in meeting greenhouse gas emissions and fuel consumption goals. (2011-12-01-C)

- Unless the Department of Energy demonstrates a demand for new Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing loans and viable applications, Congress should consider rescinding the remaining credit subsidy appropriations. (2014-13-01-C).

- Congress should consider permanently rescinding the entire balance of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation Fund (approximately $1.6 billion as of 2015). (2015-16-01-C)

- To enhance the Department of Energy's (DOE) ability to make risk-based decisions for the treatment of Hanford supplemental low-activity waste, Congress should consider clarifying DOE's authority at Hanford to determine whether portions of the supplemental low-activity waste can be managed as a waste type other than high-level waste. (2018-17-01-C)

Open GAO recommendations to Executive agencies:

- The Department of Energy should coordinate with HHS, NASA, NSF and other agencies that fund research to achieve reduction in universities' administrative workload and costs while maintaining accountability over grad funds. (2017-15-01-E)

- The Department of Energy should conduct a comprehensive assessment of the benefits, costs, and schedules of the nuclear waste repository options it reviewed and provided to the President in 2015, and revise if needed, the department's conclusion that a separate defense high-level waste repository is required. (2017-19-01-E)

- The Secretary of Energy, along with five other agencies, should develop guidance that encourages local officials to examine purchase card spend patterns to identify opportunities to obtain savings and to share information on such efforts. (2017-21-03-E)

- To maximize resources for the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue should consult with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to explore options to obtain proprietary data to enhance IRS's efforts to ensure taxpayer compliance with the inland waterways fuel tax. (2017-22-01-E)

- To help ensure that the Department of Energy's (DOE) treatment of Hanford's supplemental low-activity waste is risk based and cost effective, the Secretary of Energy

should develop updated information on the effectiveness of treating and disposing of all the different portions of Hanford's supplemental low-activity waste with alternate methods or at alternate disposal sites, and based on this information, identify potential treatment and disposal pathways for different portions of Hanford's supplemental low-activity waste, considering the risks posed by the low-activity waste. In implementing this recommendation, DOE should take into account the results of the analysis required by Section 3134 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. (2018-17-02-E)

- To help ensure that the Department of Energy's (DOE) treatment of Hanford's supplemental low-activity waste is risk based and cost effective, the Secretary of Energy should have an independent entity develop updated information on the lifecycle costs of treating and disposing of Hanford's supplemental low-activity waste with alternate methods or at alternate disposal sites. In implementing this recommendation, DOE should take into account the results of the analysis required by Section 3134 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. (2018-17-03-E)

- The Department of Energy (DOE) should conduct a comprehensive assessment of the benefits, costs, and schedules of the options it reviewed and provided to the President in 2015, in accordance with Office of Management and Budget guidance and best practices, and in light of the new information and results from the assessment, revise if needed, the department's conclusion that a separate defense high-level waste repository is required. (2017-19-01-E)