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June 7, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

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
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Open recommendations to Congress:

- Congress should require the Department of the Interior to establish an annual production incentive fee (or similar fee) for nonproductive oil and gas leases on federal lands and waters. (2011-45-02-C)

- If Interior does not take action on a study regarding federal oil and gas lease royalty rates, Congress should direct Interior to improve oversight of federal lands and water, and revenues generated from production of oil and gas. (2011-45-04-C)

Open recommendations to Executive agencies:

- The Department of the Interior should take steps to increase diligent development of federal lands and waters leased for oil and gas exploration and development. (2011-45-01-E)

- The Department of the Interior should complete a study examining how oil and gas resource owners select financial parameters for leasing and adjusting oil and gas royalty rates, and use that information to adjust, as appropriate, its royalty rates to a level that generates a fair return to the government. (2011-45-03-E)

- The Department of the Interior should implement GAO's recommendations from reports prior to 2011 to address a variety of oil and gas measurement factors. (2011-45-05-E).

- The Secretary of the Interior should direct the Director of the Park Service to revise the National Park Service's (Park Service) guidance on recreation fees so that the agency periodically reviews its entrance fees to determine whether the fees are reasonable. (2016-23-02-E)

- The Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, and eight other federal agencies, should ensure that an inventory of mobile devices and services is established agency-wide. (2016-35-01-E)

- The Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, and seven other federal agencies, should ensure that a reliable and current agency-wide inventory of mobile service contracts is developed and maintained. (2016-35-02-E)

- The Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, and twelve other federal agencies, should ensure that procedures to monitor and control spending on mobile devices and services are established agency-wide. Specifically, they should ensure that procedures include assessing devices for zero, under, and over usage; personnel with authority and responsibility for performing the procedures are identified; and the specific steps to be taken to perform the process are documented. (2016-35-03-E)

- The Secretary of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency, along with four 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)

- The Department of State and the Department of the Interior should clarify the roles and missions of staff engaged in combating wildlife trafficking in Southeast Asia. (2018-11-01-E, 2018-11-02-E)