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June 7, 2018

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

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 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development,
And Related Agencies

Open GAO Recommendations to Congress:

- Congress may wish to consider revising the Essential Air Service program's operating requirements to improve efficiency and better match capacity with community use and/or assess multimodal solutions, such as more cost-effective bus service to hub airports. (2011-42-02-C, 2011-42-03-C)

- Congress may wish to consider requiring the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to examine the benefits and costs of merging housing programs that serve similar markets and provide similar products. (2012-28-01-C)

Open GAO Recommendations to Executive Agencies:

- The Secretary of Transportation should develop a comprehensive national strategy to transform the federal government's involvement in freight transportation projects to support a targeted, efficient, and sustainable federal role. (2012-08-02-E)

- The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development should continue to work with states and localities in developing an approach for compiling and reporting information on the government-wide performance of rental assistance programs. (2012-28-04-E)

- The Secretary of Transportation should convene a meeting of the Coordinating Council to finalize and issue a cost-sharing policy for nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT); publish a new or updated strategic plan for coordinating NEMT across agencies; and/or identify challenges in coordinating Medicaid and VA NEMT programs, develop recommendations to address these challenges, and report findings to Congress. (2015-05-02-E; 2015-05-01-E; 2015-0-03-E)

- The Department of Transportation should examine the projects the Federal Transit Administration funded under its discretionary transit resilience grant program for potential duplication and determine whether it is appropriate to realign unobligated funds for other authorizes purposes. (2017-09-01-E)

- To leverage and build upon the ongoing efforts within individual Department of Transportation (DOT) modal administrations and to address concerns raised by experts regarding collaboration and coordination, data quality and analytics, regulation development, project delivery processes, and addressing emerging issues, the Secretary

of Transportation should: (1) conduct a department-wide review of DOT's current efforts to address these concerns; and (2) develop an action plan with specific steps to implement improvements, as identified, in these areas. (2018-25-01-E)

- Several agencies, including the Department of Commerce, should improve program evaluation and performance metrics, specifically they should conduct program evaluations and collect data on performance measures; conduct more program evaluations to better understand why programs have not met performance goals and their overall effectiveness; consistently collect information that would enable them to track the specific type of assistance programs provide and the entrepreneurs they serve and use this information to help administer their programs. (2012-07-02-E)

- The Federal Housing Administration (FHA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and Department of Agriculture (USDA) should periodically analyze the effectiveness and long-term costs and benefits of their foreclosure mitigation strategies and actions. (2014-25-01-E)