



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Washington, DC 20515

May 25, 2021

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro:

We are writing regarding the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) pending investigation into the Biden Administration's suspension of contracts for construction of the U.S. southern border wall, which was previously funded by congressional appropriations. In a hearing before the U.S. House Committee on the Budget on April 29, 2021, GAO stated it was currently working on this pending legal opinion. Specifically, GAO stated, "[w]e have asked OMB and DHS to provide factual and legal views to us. And we are expecting their responses now mid to late next week." This deadline has passed and therefore, we are requesting a status update on GAO's investigation.

As the Biden Administration continues to hold these funds, we are deeply disturbed that Congress has yet to receive any additional information and answers from GAO. What makes this situation especially concerning is the fact that GAO issued a legal opinion on a similar incident within approximately two months after receiving a request from Congress in 2019. Considering that more than 100 Members of Congress requested a legal opinion from GAO in March 2021, this suggests that GAO is capable of issuing an opinion within a similar timeframe. It has now been almost a month since the Committee on the Budget's hearing and two months since the request for an investigation was made and Congress still has no detailed information or any specified timeframe for when GAO will release its opinion. We appreciate your prompt response to this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Smith", written in a cursive style.

Jason Smith
Republican Leader
House Committee on the Budget



Trent Kelly (MS-01)
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock (CA-04)
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman (WI-06)
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker (PA-11)
Member of Congress



Chris Jacobs (NY-27)
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess M.D. (TX-26)
Member of Congress



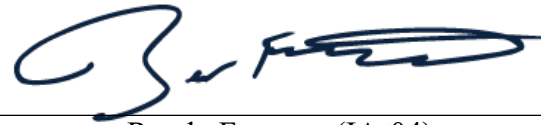
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter (GA-01)
Member of Congress



Ben Cline (VA-06)
Member of Congress



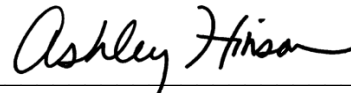
Lauren Boebert (CO-03)
Member of Congress



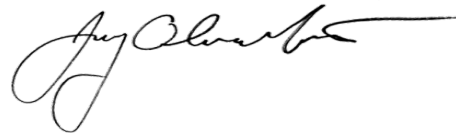
Randy Feenstra (IA-04)
Member of Congress



Bob Good (VA-05)
Member of Congress



Ashley Hinson (IA-01)
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte (CA-08)
Member of Congress