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April 29, 2023

The Hon. Susan Collins
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Unfinished Work Regarding Your WSARA Amendment on Earned Value Management

I appreciate that you and Sen. McCaskill offered an amendment to WSARA in 2009. The amendment became Section 302, Earned Value Management (EVM).

Per the Congressional Record (CR), then Presiding Officer Sen. Joe Biden praised you for taking on issues which are not necessarily the most glamorous and do not necessarily get the headlines but really get to the inside of what needs to be “delved into, needs to be looked at, needs to be analyzed, and needs to be addressed.”

You stated in the CR that contractor reporting on EVM often lacks consistency, leading to inaccurate data and faulty application of this metric. In other words, this is a garbage-in/garbage-out problem that we need to correct.

Unfortunately, fourteen years later, the problem still needs to be delved into, looked at, analyzed, and addressed. My assessment of the problem and a recommended solution are in a white paper which I recently submitted to your Navy Defense Fellow. The paper includes a “Recommended Five Step Plan for Acquisition Reform.” It includes GAO actions that you may request.

I have worked with Chairman McCain and his NAVAIR fellows regarding F-35 cost overruns and recommended acquisition reforms during 2015-2018. I would be pleased to continue this unfinished work with you and your staff.

Additional, collateral oversight recommendations are in the attached letter to then HASC Chairman Adam Smith, Subject: “Proposed Chair Markup for NDAA for FY 2023 Regarding Industry/DoD Differences on Award Fee Incentives Guidance,” dated June 4, 2022. That letter covers award fees, EVM, Agile methods, and F-35 Block 4 Modernization.

Please consider taking oversight actions on all recommendations or coordinating with the SASC or HASC for joint oversight actions.

This letter and other letters on acquisition reform may be downloaded from www.pb-ev.com.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul J. Solomon", is displayed on a light pink rectangular background.

CC:

Hon. Sen. Tammy Duckworth

Hon. Rep. Adam Smith

Hon. Dep. USD(A&S) Radha Plumb