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The Honorable William LaPlante USD(A&S)
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Subj: DFARS Revision EVMS Case Fails to Meet Your Commitments to SASC

Dear USD LaPlante:

This letter augments the letter sent May 5, Subj: DFARS Revision EVMS Case Fails to Meet Congressional Needs and GAO Recommendations. The first letter alleged that the narrow, restricted scope of the DFARS EVMS case fails to meet Congressional needs and GAO recommendations. This letter cites your commitments to the SASC. The proposed scope also falls short of meeting those commitments.

The revision to DFARS in Case 2024-D017 EVMS is “exempts contracts and subcontracts *primarily* for the procurement of *software* from the EVM requirement.” Previously, I recommended that the scope be expanded to exempt *all weapon programs* using Agile for software development, including programs that are not on the software acquisition pathway. The expanded scope is consistent with your statement at the SASC nomination hearing which addressed the role of software in the *complete* DoD mission and *weapon system*, not just those contracts that are primarily for the procurement of software.

DFARS Case 2024-D017 is only a baby step towards replacing EVMS with outcome-based metrics. The path to acquisition reform should meet NDIS and PBBE goals.

Excerpts from questions and your answers at the hearing follow.

38. What do you believe are the major barriers to DOD fully adopting modern software development approaches, and what additional steps, if confirmed, would you take to drive their adoption throughout DOD?

I would partner with key organizations to further tailor DoD interoperability, test and evaluation, *contracting*, and *requirements processes* for software...As *software is central to every* DoD mission and *system*, we must ensure our *policies*, processes, and culture support speed and agility in development.

39. What is your assessment of the current capabilities of the Defense Industrial Base (DIB) to properly execute agile software development?

The Section 809 Panel, on which I served, identified many recommendations needed to move the DoD and its industrial base toward a more streamlined and agile acquisition system in sync with the information age. I understand many of the firms in the DIB are growing their agile software development capabilities and practices, yet we still see many struggles with software approaches *integrated into major hardware development*. There are *barriers preventing widespread adoption of business models and best practices common* in the tech industry. If confirmed, I would seek to *promote leading private-sector industry practices* throughout DoD where delivery of capability is done iteratively and collaboratively with

the government, which can reduce cycle times and be more responsive to changing technologies, operations, and threats. This is particularly true for *software*, which is central to every major DoD mission and *weapon system*.

Recommendation

If the proposed DFARS revision is restricted to “contracts and subcontracts *primarily* for the procurement of software,” then traditional suppliers will have succeeded to maintain *barriers preventing widespread adoption of business models and best practices common in the tech industry*.” One of those barriers is the DFARS EVMS requirement.

You committed to *promote leading private-sector industry practices for software*, which is *central* to every major DoD mission and weapon system. Those practices do not contain requirements to use the EIA-748 guidelines. So, just scuttle the DFARS EVMS case and replace it with a total EVMS exemption for mission and weapon systems.

Thanks,



Paul J. Solomon

CC:

Hon. Robert J. Wittman, HASC Hon. Heidi Shyu, (USD(R&E))
Hon. Donald Norcross, HASC Hon. Andrew Hunter, AF Asst. Sec. for AT&L
Hon. Adam Smith, HASC Nickolas Guertin (ASN RD&A)
Hon. Elizabeth Warren, SASC Shelby Oakley, GAO
Hon. Susan Collins, Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
Anthony Capaccio, Bloomberg News