

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115
Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

June 1, 2015

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20584

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

We write to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) assess the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) monitoring of environmental and other results for the grants it issues to support its mission of protecting human health and the environment.

Grants comprise over 40 percent of EPA's budget, about \$3.5 billion annually, and EPA awards them to diverse recipients including state and local governments, tribes, nonprofit organizations, and foreign entities. It is critical that EPA monitor the effectiveness of its grants to ensure that recipients are using the funds appropriately to protect human health and the environment.

In past work, GAO and the EPA Office of Inspector General (OIG) found that EPA faced persistent challenges managing numerous aspects of its grants at EPA regional offices and headquarters. In 2006, GAO found that EPA did not have performance measures for tracking environmental results. More recently, OIG found that EPA should improve its oversight of environmental results for certain grant programs, and that EPA's grants workforce may face future workload issues.

To support the committee's ongoing oversight of EPA grants management, we request that GAO examine EPA's monitoring of environmental and other results for its grant-funded activities as well as EPA's management of its grants workforce.

Specifically, we would like GAO to address the following questions:

1. How does EPA monitor environmental and other results achieved through its grants? We are particularly interested in whether EPA's monitoring practices involve fragmentation,

and if so, whether there are any resulting implications for (a) EPA's efficient use of existing resources and (b) EPA's interaction with grant recipients.

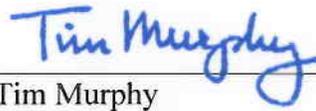
2. To what extent does EPA follow best practices in human capital management for planning and organizing its grants management workforce?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Please contact Mr. Sam Spector or Mr. Peter Spencer of the majority committee staff at (202) 225-2927 regarding the specifics of your evaluation.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Chairman



Tim Murphy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and
Investigations

Cc:

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member

The Honorable Diana DeGette, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations