

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH 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

September 18, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

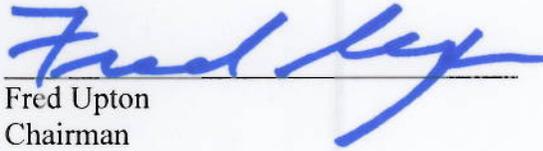
We write to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigate the effectiveness of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) management of grants issued by the agency to support its mission of protecting human health and the environment.

Grants comprise over 40 percent of the agency's budget, or about \$3.5 billion annually, and EPA awards them to a diverse group of recipients, including state and local governments, tribes, nonprofit organizations, foreign entities. It is critical that EPA manage grants effectively to ensure that the agency spends its appropriations as efficiently as possible.

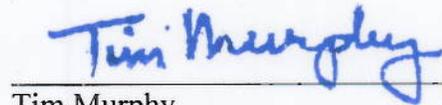
In past work, GAO found that EPA faced persistent challenges in managing numerous aspects of its grants at EPA headquarters and in field offices and other locations. In 2003, EPA developed a 5-year Grants Management Plan that presented goals, objectives, milestones, and performance measures with targets to address the agency's long-standing grants management problems. However, subsequent GAO work found that EPA still faced challenges monitoring grantees to ensure they fulfilled the terms and conditions of their grants, and documenting the close out of expired grants properly and within established timeframes. In 2008, EPA updated its Grants Management Plan to address these challenges. Accordingly, we believe this is the right time for GAO to assess EPA's efforts and progress in managing its grants. This would also involve comparing EPA's efforts with recent OMB guidance on grants management that seeks to strengthen oversight of federal grant funds, and achieve better results at a lower cost.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Please work with Mr. Sam Spector or Mr. Peter Spencer of the Majority Committee Staff at (202) 225-2927 on the specifics of your evaluation.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Chairman



Tim Murphy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member

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