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ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974

MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

March 24, 2014

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The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Ms. Burwell:

On March 20, 2013, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform reported to the full House, H.R. 328, the Excess Federal Building and Property Disposal Act of 2013. The goal of this bill is to streamline the process by which underutilized federal real property is disposed of or otherwise repurposed. In order to inform this legislation and to assist in our ongoing oversight efforts in this area, the Committee has repeatedly requested Federal Real Property Profile (FRPP) data held by OMB, and yet these requests have consistently gone unfulfilled.

On December 19, 2011, the Committee wrote to then-Deputy Director for Management Jeffrey D. Zients requesting to obtain, among other things, FRPP data pertaining to all federal real property valued at \$50 million or more and which does not currently meet federal government needs, including those properties which OMB may or may not consider to be "high value assets."<sup>1</sup> On January 6, 2012, Deputy Director Zients responded to my letter. He wrote:

Per your request in the letter dated December 19, 2011, we are prepared to transmit to the Committee a data file that will include all domestic, civilian assets that are listed in the FRPP inventory as "under-utilized" or "not mission critical" that have a PRV [plant replacement value] of higher than \$50 million.<sup>2</sup>

More than two years later, the Committee still has not received this data. Committee staff made follow-up requests via e-mail to OMB staff on May 24 and 31, 2012, and again on November 15, 2012, all referencing Deputy Director Zients' commitment to producing this

<sup>1</sup> Letter from Hon. Darrell Issa, Chairman, Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform to Jeffrey D. Zients, Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management & Budget, December 19, 2011.

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information. Yet, these commitments remain unfulfilled. Should OMB continue to ignore the Committee's requests, we will have no alternative but to consider the use of compulsory process to obtain the requested documents and information.

Even without OMB's assistance, this Committee is continuing its important work on excess federal real properties. During this Congress, the Government Operations Subcommittee has held four hearings highlighting the approximately \$1.5 billion spent annually on operations and maintenance costs of unneeded federal government real property. For example, on March 8, 2013, the Subcommittee held a hearing near the vacant David W. Dyer Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Miami, Florida. This courthouse has been vacant since 2008 and costs taxpayers \$1.2 million per year to maintain. In April 2013, the Subcommittee held a hearing at the L Street Warehouse, an abandoned facility in downtown Washington, D.C., owned by the federal government. The warehouse has been vacant for 4 years, costing taxpayers over \$70,000 per year in maintenance -- more than a quarter million dollars since it was vacated.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the committee with legislative jurisdiction over surplus property disposal. Additionally, it is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X.

If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Callen or Jenna VanSant with Committee Staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



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Darrell Issa  
Chairman



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John Mica  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Government Operations

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member