

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 22, 2015

The Honorable Charlie Bolden
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Mr. Bolden:

In 2015, for the first time the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) designated Information Technology (IT) Acquisition “high risk” in order to call attention to the government’s poor performance in delivering new IT systems.¹ One of GAO’s key findings was that the government is spending less on modernization of IT and more on operations and maintenance of legacy IT making the government increasingly reliant on antiquated and expensive to maintain systems. In FY 2015, GAO reported that almost three quarters of the federal government’s annual \$80 billion in IT spending is for maintaining and operating legacy IT. The GAO is in the midst of additional work examining the government’s use of legacy IT and plans to report on their findings next year.

In an effort to complement ongoing GAO work and further our oversight of agencies’ use of legacy IT, we are requesting information on your agency’s use of legacy IT. Please provide the requested information below as soon as possible, but by no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 29, 2016.

1. Please identify your agency’s top three mission-critical legacy IT systems in need of modernization or replacement.
 - a. For each, provide the planned date to modernize or replace these systems and specify if there is no such date planned at this time.
 - b. For each system provide the amount your agency spends on operations and maintenance costs for the last three fiscal years.
2. What are the oldest programming languages in use today at your agency (e.g., COBOL, FORTRAN, etc.)?
 - a. For each language identified, please state the year your agency started using this language and how many lines of code your agency maintains in this language.
 - b. How many staff does your agency have available to maintain code in each of these languages?
 - c. Please identify the oldest programming languages in use for your agency’s mission critical programs.

¹ Gov’t Accountability Office, *High Risk Series* (Feb. 2015) (GAO-15-290).

3. Please identify the top five oldest IT hardware and infrastructure in use at your agency. For each, provide a date for when you plan to modernize or replace it and specify if there is not a specific date for modernization or replacement.
4. Does your agency use any software or operating systems no longer supported by the vendor?
 - a. Please provide the name/version of the software and the last date of support by the vendor. For example, Windows XP (released in 2001) was no longer supported by Microsoft as of April 2014.
 - b. If the software or operating systems are no longer supported by the vendor, how does the agency support this software?
5. How many legacy IT systems have you decommissioned over the last five years? Please provide the system name and dates of initiation and decommissioning.
6. How many IT staff does the agency currently employ? Please specify whether this IT staff is agency staff or contractor.
 - a. For agency staff, what is the average age of your IT staff?
 - b. For agency staff, what is the turnover rate for the last three fiscal years?
 - c. What are the key certifications required for your agency staff?
 - d. What percentage of your IT staff are certified as required by your agency?
7. Does your agency use existing hiring and pay authorities / flexibilities that are currently available to assist your agency with the recruiting of IT staff, particularly IT staff to support cybersecurity functions? If there are gaps in such hiring and pay authorities, please identify these gaps.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Pursuant to House Rule X, the Committee has authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time.”

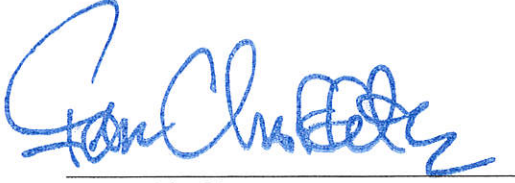
The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized by Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate to investigate “the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the Government.” Additionally, S. Res. 73 (114th Congress) authorizes the Committee to examine “the efficiency and economy of all branches and functions of Government with particular references to the operations and management of Federal regulatory policies and programs.”

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Julie Dunne of the House Oversight and Government Reform majority staff at (202) 225-5074, Mark Stephenson of the House Oversight and Government Reform

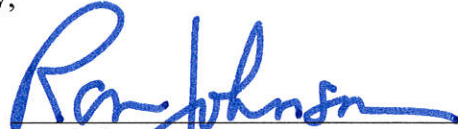
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minority staff at (202) 225-5051, Patrick Bailey of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs majority staff at (202) 224-4751, Matt Grote of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs minority staff at 202 224-2627, Kevin Cummins of Senator Udall's staff at 202 224-6621, or Cort Bush of Senator Moran's staff at 202 224-6521.

Sincerely,



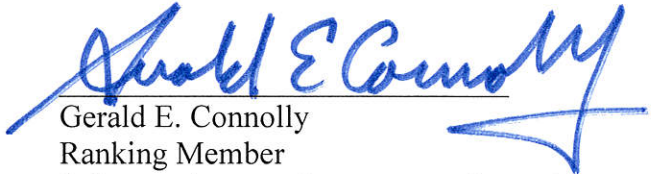
Jason Chaffetz
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U. S. House of Representatives



Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate



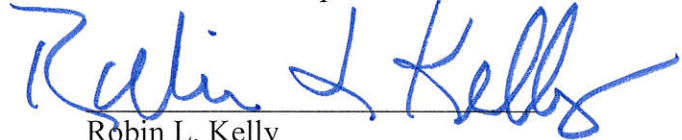
Mark Meadows
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
U. S. House of Representatives



Gerald E. Connolly
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations
U. S. House of Representatives



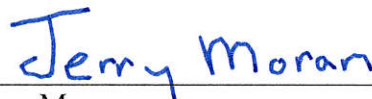
Will Hurd
Chairman
Subcommittee on Information Technology
U. S. House of Representatives



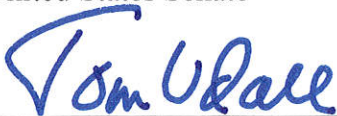
Robin L. Kelly
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Information Technology
U. S. House of Representatives



Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate



Jerry Moran
United States Senate



Tom Udall
United States Senate

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U. S. House of Representatives