

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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September 18, 2023

Mathew C. Blum
Chair
Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council
725 17th St. NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Chair Blum:

As we wrote you on August 3, 2023, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the FAR Council’s proposed rule on Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate-Related Financial Risk (hereinafter, “the Rule”).¹ The Committee is deeply concerned that the Rule, as drafted, would restrict the availability of conventional fuels to the federal motor and aviation fleet and potentially compromise U.S. military readiness.² In light of these concerns and others, the Committee requested a staff-level briefing by August 10, 2023, as well as documents and information by August 17, 2023, to understand the Rule’s potential to compromise needs of the U.S. military and federal fleet, the Science-Based Targets Initiative (SBTi)’s engagement with the FAR Council concerning the Rule, and other matters concerning the Rule.³

On August 10, 2023, we received a response stating that the Rule remains under review and that the Office of Federal Procurement Policy had shared the Committee’s letter with members of the FAR Council for their consideration as they review public comments and possible revisions to the Rule.⁴ The FAR Council failed to provide the requested briefing, and the response letter provided no indication that the FAR Council intended to provide the Committee with the documents and information requested.

This is a woefully inadequate response. The Committee’s letter was not sent simply to offer a public comment for the FAR Council’s rulemaking, but to assert congressional oversight regarding this critical matter. As such, the Committee reiterates its request that the FAR Council provide the briefing, documents and information sought by the Committee’s August 3, 2023, letter. The briefing should be provided no later than September 25, 2023, and the documents should be provided no later than October 2, 2023. Continued refusals to cooperate with the

¹ Letter from Chairman James Comer and Subcommittee Chairman Pat Fallon, H. Comm. on Oversight and Accountability, to Matthew C. Blum, Chair, Federal Acquisition Regulation Council (Aug. 3, 2023).

² See *id.* at 1

³ *Id.* at 1, 3-4.

⁴ Letter from Wintta Woldemaria, Assoc. Dir., Off. of Leg. Affairs, Off. of Mgmt. & Budget, to Chairman James Comer and Subcommittee Chairman Pat Fallon, H. Comm. on Oversight and Accountability (Aug. 3, 2023).

Matthew C. Blum, Chair

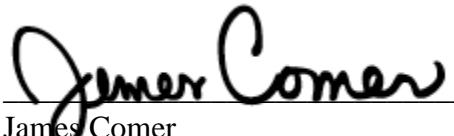
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Committee's oversight will require the Committee to consider use of additional tools at its disposal to assure compliance.

To schedule the briefing, arrange for the delivery of responsive documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority Staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate, "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pat Fallon
Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic Growth,
Energy Policy, and Regulatory
Affairs

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Cori Bush, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs

Mr. Mathew C. Blum
Chair
Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary
U.S. Department of State

John M. Tenaglia
Principal Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting
Department of Defense

Robin Carnahan
Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration

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