

MARK PRYOR

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<http://pryor.senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Dr. Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585-0001

Dear Secretary Chu,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Department of Energy and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the Department:

- Resolving conflicting requirements concerning the federal fleet energy goals.

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Lehrman at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,



Mark Pryor

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs. In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Department of State and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include action steps to address those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the Department:

- Failure to update the Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM) to reflect the reorganization of arms control and nonproliferation functions contributes to persistent mission overlap and redundancy.

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Holland at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,



Mark Pryor

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Jo Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314-0001

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Department of the Army and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the Department:

- Fragmented Federal Efforts to Meet Water Needs in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region Have Resulted in an Administrative Burden, Redundant Activities, and an Overall Inefficient Use of Resources
- The Corps of Engineers Should Provide Congress With Project-Level Information on Unobligated Balances

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Grobmyer at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Pryor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Pryor

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20410-0001

Dear Secretary Donovan,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the Department:

- The efficiency and effectiveness of various economic development programs.
- Better coordination of federal homelessness programs.
- Improved services for the transportation of disadvantaged persons.

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Lehrman at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,



Mark Pryor

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
United States Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Department of Defense and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the Department:

- Realigning DOD's Military Medical Command structures and consolidating common functions to increase efficiency and reduce costs,
- Opportunities for consolidation and increased efficiencies to maximize response to warfighter urgent needs,
- Opportunities to avoid unnecessary redundancies and improve the coordination of counter-improvised explosive device efforts,
- Opportunities to avoid unnecessary redundancies and maximize the efficient use of Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance capabilities,

- A Department-wide acquisition strategy to reduce DOD's risk of costly duplication in purchasing tactical wheeled vehicles,
- Improving joint oversight of DOD's Prepositioning Programs to reduce unnecessary duplication,
- DOD Business Systems Modernization: Opportunities for optimizing business operations and systems,
- Opportunities for DOD and VA to jointly modernize their electronic health record systems,
- VA and DOD's need to control drug costs and increase joint contracting whenever it is cost effective,
- Strategic oversight mechanisms to help integrate fragmented interagency efforts to defend against biological threats,
- Lack of information sharing creating the potential for duplication of efforts between U.S. agencies involved in development efforts in Afghanistan,
- Teacher Quality: Proliferation of programs complicating federal efforts to invest dollars effectively,
- DOD assessment of costs and benefits of overseas military presence options before committing to costly personnel realignments and construction plans,
- Total compensation approach to manage significant growth in military personnel costs,
- Employing best management practices to help DOD save money on its weapon systems acquisitions,
- More efficient management to limit future costs of DOD's spare parts inventory,
- More comprehensive and complete cost data to help DOD improve the cost-effectiveness of sustaining weapon systems,
- Improved corrosion prevention and control practices to help DOD avoid billions in unnecessary costs,
- Adherence to new guidance on award fee contracts to improve the agency's use of award fees and produce savings,
- Realizing cost savings by disposal of unneeded federal real property.

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Wes Duncan at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Pryor". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Mark Pryor

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Timothy Geithner
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Geithner,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Department of Treasury and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the Department:

- Duplicative federal efforts directed at increasing domestic ethanol production.
- Increasing electronic filing of individual income tax returns.
- Using return on investment information to better target IRS enforcement.
- Better management of tax debt collection.
- Broadening IRS's authority to correct simple tax return errors.
- Enhancing mortgage interest information.
- Gathering more information on the types and uses of canceled debt.

- Addressing overstated real estate tax deductions.
- Revisions to the content and use of Form 1098-T.
- Improving the tax compliance of sole proprietors.
- Using third-party data to find additional businesses not filing tax returns.
- Helping S Corporations and their shareholders be more tax compliant.
- Developing an agency-wide approach to address tax evasion by networks of businesses and related entities.
- Improving the targeting of the research and experimentation tax credit.
- Converting the New Market Tax Credit to a grant program.
- Limiting the tax-exempt status of certain governmental bonds.
- Adjusting civil tax penalties for inflation.
- Identifying nonresident aliens reporting unallowed tax deductions or credits.

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Lehrman at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,



Mark Pryor

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Dear Administrator Jackson,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Environmental Protection Agency and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the EPA:

- Fragmented federal efforts to meet water needs in the U.S.-Mexico border region.
- Duplicative federal efforts directed at increasing domestic ethanol production.

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Lehrman at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,



Mark Pryor

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Department of the Transportation and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the Department:

- The Federal Approach to Surface Transportation Is Fragmented, Lacks Clear Goals, and Is Not Accountable for Results
- Consolidating Federal Data Centers Provides Opportunity to Improve Government Efficiency
- Transportation Security Administration's Security Assessments on Commercial Trucking Companies Overlap with Those of Another Agency
- Further Steps Needed to Improve Cost-Effectiveness and Enhance Services for Transportation-Disadvantaged Persons

- Revising the Essential Air Service Program Could Improve Efficiency and Reduce Costs

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Grobmyer at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Pryor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Pryor

MARK PRYOR

ARKANSAS

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Jacob Lew
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Lew,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the actions your office has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the OMB:

- Development of enterprise architectures would help identify potential overlap and duplication.
- Improving the data received on interagency contracting is needed to minimize duplication and better leverage the Government's buying power.
- Efforts to address Government-wide improper payments could result in significant cost savings.
- Tracking undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts could facilitate the reallocation of scarce resources or the return of funding to the treasury.
- Promoting competition for federal contracts can produce savings.

- Applying strategic sourcing best practices throughout the Federal Procurement System could produce significant savings.
- OMB's IT Dashboard can further help identify opportunities to invest more efficiently in Information Technology.

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Donny Williams at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,

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Mark Pryor

MARK PRYOR

ARKANSAS

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the U.S. Department of Commerce and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the Department:

- Progress in improving data center consolidation to strengthen IT operations and efficiencies and reduce costs;
- Efforts to assess overlap in economic development programs at the Departments of Commerce, Housing and urban Development, Agriculture and the Small Business Administration as well as efforts to collaborate to achieve common goals and to identify ways to measure program efficacy, particularly through the collection of complete data on program outcomes;
- Better tracking of undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts across federal agencies and any specific agency efforts to resolve such balances, if found; and

- Ways to reform the system for collecting antidumping and countervailing duties, and specifically, the administrative burden placed on Commerce and Customs and Border Protection by the current retrospective nature of the U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty system.

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Mia Petrini of my staff at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Pryor". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Mark Pryor

MARK PRYOR

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Karen Mills
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 Third Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20416-0005

Dear Administrator Mills,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Small Business Administration and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the SBA:

- The efficiency and effectiveness of various economic development programs.

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Lehrman at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,



Mark Pryor

MARK PRYOR

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
U.S. Department Of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528-0001

Dear Secretary Napolitano,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Department of Homeland Security and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the Department:

- In order to better protect the nation, strategic oversight could be applied to help integrate fragmented interagency efforts to defend against biological threats. There are at least five federal government departments and over two dozen Presidentially-appointed individuals with responsibility for bio-defense.
- Greater DHS oversight could aide in the elimination of duplicative efforts of interagency forums in providing northern border security. Currently, DHS and other Federal law enforcement partners work together to secure the border.
- TSA provides security assessments on commercial trucking companies but its efforts are being duplicated by the Department of Transportation. GAO's report indicates that efforts are underway to address the overlap.

- There are three information-sharing mechanisms funded by DHS and TSA. GAO's report recommends that in order to limit the amount of overlap in information, DHS streamline these mechanisms for sharing information with public transit agencies.
- GAO recommends improved oversight of the FEMA grants program. It also recommends the establishment of a framework for assessing capabilities to identify gaps and prioritize homeland security investments.
- As an area in which there may be potential cost-saving options, GAO has suggested strengthening DHS's management of acquisitions to reduce cost overruns and schedule and performance shortfalls.
- GAO also identified improvements in managing research and development as methods to help reduce inefficiencies and costs for homeland security.
- Justification for funding or expansion of TSA's behavior-based screening program must be validated.
- GAO claims that TSA personnel costs could be reduced by roughly \$470 million over the next five years if more efficient baggage screening systems are implemented.
- Another revenue-enhancing option identified by GAO is the clarification of availability of certain customs fee collections, which could result in a one-time savings of \$640 million.

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Donny Williams at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,



Mark Pryor

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Honorable Salazar,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Department of Interior and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

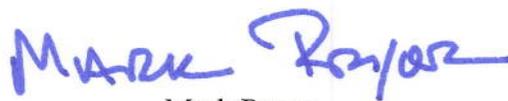
For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the Department:

- Fragmented Federal Efforts to Meet Water Needs in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region Have Resulted in an Administrative Burden, Redundant Activities, and an Overall Inefficient Use of Resources
- Enterprise Architectures: Key Mechanisms for Identifying Potential Overlap and Duplication
- Consolidating Federal Data Centers Provides Opportunity to Improve Government Efficiency
- Strategic Oversight Mechanisms Could Help Integrate Fragmented Interagency Efforts to Defend against Biological Threats

- Further Steps Nee Further Steps Needed to Improve Cost-Effectiveness and Enhance Services for Transportation-Disadvantaged Persons
- Ensuring the Federal Government Receives Fair Market Value for Its Oil and Gas Resources Could Enhance Federal Revenues
- Agencies Could Realize Cost Savings by Disposal of Unneeded Federal Real Property

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Grobmyer at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,



Mark Pryor

MARK PRYOR

ARKANSAS

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<http://pryor.senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Department of Health and Human Services and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the Department:

- Better integrating of nationwide public health information systems

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Tate Heuer at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,



Mark Pryor

MARK PRYOR

ARKANSAS

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Eric Shinseki
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue
Washington, DC 20420-0002

Dear Secretary Shinseki,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Department of Veterans Affairs and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the Department:

- Opportunities for DOD and VA to jointly modernize their electronic health record systems,
- VA and DOD's need to control drug costs and increase joint contracting whenever it is cost effective,
- Further steps needed to improve cost-effectiveness and enhance services for transportation-disadvantaged persons.

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Wes Duncan at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Pryor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "M".

Mark Pryor

MARK PRYOR

ARKANSAS

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Hilda L. Solis
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Solis,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Department of Health and Human Services and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the Department:

- Colocating services and consolidating administrative structures to promote efficiencies in employment and training programs

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Tate Heuer at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,



Mark Pryor

MARK PRYOR

ARKANSAS

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-0002

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

As you know, every penny the government spends is being scrutinized for potential savings as we seek to reduce our bloated budget and budget deficit. We can begin by eliminating inefficient, duplicative or outdated programs.

In a report released last week, the Government Accountability Office provided Congress with 81 areas of potential savings as a result of duplicative programs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am prepared to turn many of their findings into cost-savings.

I would appreciate hearing from you whether you agree with the report's findings concerning the Department of Agriculture and the actions your agency has or plans to take in the short- and long-term as a result of the report to achieve cost-savings. If you are aware of duplicative or unnecessary programs within your agency that the GAO did not cite, please include a plan of action to eliminate those programs as well.

For your reference, the report, *Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars and Enhance Revenue*, addressed the following regarding the Department:

- Fragmented food safety system has caused inconsistent oversight, ineffective coordination, and inefficient use of resources.
- Efficiency and Effectiveness of Fragmented Economic Development Programs Are Unclear
- Fragmented Federal Efforts to Meet Water Needs in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region Have Resulted in an Administrative Burden, Redundant Activities, and an Overall Inefficient Use of Resources
- Duplicative Federal Efforts Directed at Increasing Domestic Ethanol Production Cost Billions Annually
- Consolidating Federal Data Centers Provides Opportunity to Improve Government Efficiency

- Periodic Reviews Could Help Identify Ineffective Tax Expenditures and Redundancies in Related Tax and Spending Programs
- Strategic Oversight Mechanisms Could Help Integrate Fragmented Interagency Efforts to Defend against Biological Threats
- Actions Needed to Reduce Administrative Overlap among Domestic Food Assistance Programs
- Reducing some farm program payments could result in savings from \$800 million over 10 years to up to \$5 billion annually
- Recent Efforts to Address Governmentwide Improper Payments Could Result in Significant Cost Savings
- Tracking Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts Could Facilitate the Reallocation of Scarce Resources or the Return of Funding to the Treasury

I would appreciate a response no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Grobmyer at 202-224-2353.

Sincerely,



Mark Pryor