

April 25, 2011

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly
424 Cannon HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Connolly:

The Coalition for Government Procurement sincerely appreciates your leadership and dedication to our nation's federal acquisition system. We would like to offer our support for the Federal Acquisition Improvement Act (H.R.1424) which is critical to the future success of this community.

The Coalition for Government Procurement is a non-profit association of more than 300 firms selling commercial services and products to the Federal Government. Our members collectively account for approximately 70% of the sales generated through the General Services Administration (GSA) Multiple Award Schedules (MAS) program and about half of the commercial item solutions purchased annually by the Federal Government. Our members include small, medium and large business concerns. The Coalition is proud to have worked with Government officials over the past 30 years towards the mutual goal of common sense acquisition.

Providing the acquisition workforce with the necessary training, support, and career development opportunities are keys to the future of our government procurement system. With much of the current acquisition workforce expected to retire within the next decade, ensuring that the next generation of acquisition professionals is prepared to manage the complex nature of today's contracting environment is essential.

Housing the

In addition, we believe that in order for the Federal Acquisition Institute (FAI) to be able to fulfill its mission of supporting the career development of these professionals, dedicated funding for training and certification based on government-wide standards is critical. While efforts are being made to reduce federal budgets, a commitment to FAI funding is vital given the role that the acquisition workforce plays in averting waste, fraud, and abuse.

The Coalition welcomes the opportunity to work with you and other members of the Committee on this issue. Our sincere appreciation, again, for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Roger Waldron
President