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April 15, 2011

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member

Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

The Coalition for Government Procurement sincerely appreciates your continued leadership and dedication to our nation's federal acquisition system. We would like to offer our support for two bills that are critical to the future success of this community, the Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (S.761) and the Federal Acquisition Improvement Act (S.762).

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 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.

The Federal Acquisition Management Fellows Program has great potential to attract talented leaders with outstanding academic merit that have the ability to appropriately manage future government contracts and ensure the best value for the taxpayer. A Master's degree curriculum combined with on-the-job training within federal agencies will set a strong foundation for the professional development of these leaders. The Coalition is very much in support of this career development approach.

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 academic materials 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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'RWaldron', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roger Waldron
President