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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

July 14, 1999

The Honorable David M. Walker
Comptroller General
General Accounting Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

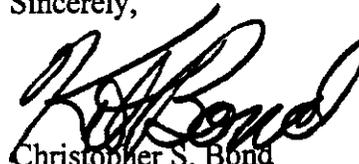
Dear Mr. Walker:

The Small Business Administration (SBA) is undergoing many changes as it tries to transform itself into a "21st Century leading edge financial institution." While it pursues modernization, the Committee would also like it to resolve problem that have hampered it from achieving greater success in the past. The Committee has received many reports over recent years that have identified deficiencies in SBA's operations. While these have been useful in bringing about needed changes, these reports were generally narrowly focused on specific program components.

As an initial step in identifying and resolving the root causes of operational problems that have agency-wide implications, the Committee is requesting the General Accounting Office to undertake an evaluation of SBA's management of information technology. This evaluation should address SBA's information technology capabilities and practices in the areas of investment management, architecture, security, software development and acquisition, and human capital management, as well as any other areas necessary to make an in-depth analysis of SBA's information resource management.

For further information on the Committee interests, please contact Emilia DiSanto, or Paul Cooksey of my staff at 224-5175. Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Bond
Chairman