

DUNCAN HUNTER
50TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON
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U.S. House of Representatives
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June 19, 2013

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. General Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

The recent disclosure of classified information regarding U.S. national security programs requires a thorough assessment of the current classification system. With access to classified information contingent on the issuance of security clearances, overclassification stands to dangerously expand access to material that should ordinarily be limited.

While the General Accountability Office (GAO) has undertaken reviews in intelligence sharing and classification errors, it is my understanding that GAO has not performed a comprehensive study relating to overclassification of security material. For this reason I am requesting GAO to determine:

- The degree to which material is classified that does not materially impact national security;
- The degree to which material is classified in excess of current security procedures;
- Whether narrowing classification requirements would reduce the need for nearly 5 million individuals to hold security clearances, and whether reducing that number would limit security disclosures;
- If there are accountability systems in place to review agency and employee classification decisions to indentify persistent instances of overclassification;
- The degree to which excessive classification harms information sharing;
- The effectiveness of the process to declassify documents.

Thank you for your attention to this request. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duncan Hunter".

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress

MARTHA ROBY
2ND DISTRICT, ALABAMA

CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 428
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0102

COMMITTEES
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July 11, 2013

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
441 G St. NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro,

As Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, I would like to become a co-requester of a GAO review—requested by Representative Duncan Hunter—of a number of issues regarding the overclassification of security material.

I have spoken with Joe Kasper of Mr. Hunter's staff, and they are agreeable to my joining the request. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Mac Tolar at (202) 225-2901.

Sincerely,



Martha Roby
Member of Congress

Cc: Joe Kasper via Hand Delivery