

March 1, 2013

Hon. Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Comptroller General:

Pursuant to the Budget Control Act, the President today ordered a sequester cancelling \$85.3 billion in budgetary resources in a variety of accounts. This is the first sequester in over a decade and I am writing to request your assistance in evaluating its operation.

- Please review the President's sequester order and any supporting reports, regulations, and orders for compliance with the Budget Control Act, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, and other relevant statutes.
- Please review how agencies determined what constituted a "program, project, or activity" for purposes of the sequester.
- Please review the extent to which agencies made use of reprogramming and transfer authorities in response to the sequester.
- Please evaluate agency approaches to implementing
 - the July 31, 2012 memorandum from the Office of Management and Budget instructing agencies to continue normal spending and operations despite the approach of the sequester; and
 - the March 1, 2013 Office of Management and Budget notice to federal agencies regarding sequestration.

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- Please review the extent to which agencies made use of furloughs or reductions in force in response to the sequester, and whether agencies had other alternatives available to them to achieve some or all of the savings.

I have asked my staff to work with you to agree on the scope of the agencies, programs, projects or activities covered by this request and timing of the report. The point of contact for this request is Jonathan Burks; he can be reached at jonathan.burks@mail.house.gov or 202-226-7270. I appreciate your prompt attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Ryan
Chairman