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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

May 29, 2012

The Honorable Robert S. Mueller, III
Federal Bureau of Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover Building
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Mueller:

On May 25, 2012, I was notified by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB) of a sophisticated cyber attack on Serco, Inc., a third party service provider of the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). As the Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the committee of jurisdiction over federal workforce issues, including the FRTIB, and multi-agency efforts to prevent and respond to cybersecurity threats, I want to assess the process and timeframe whereby this attack was discovered and addressed.

According to the FRTIB, the attack occurred in July 2011 on a computer owned by Serco, Inc., a vendor used by FRTIB to support the TSP program. The breach resulted in the unauthorized access to personally identifiable information or financial information for approximately 123,000 TSP participants. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reportedly only notified the FRTIB of the attack in April of this year, more than nine months after it occurred.

Please provide responses to the following questions by June 5, 2012:

- 1) When did the FBI first become aware of the attack?
- 2) Was the FBI the first federal entity to discover that an attack had occurred?
 - a. If so, how did the FBI discover the attack and the files of breached data?
 - b. If not, which agency was the first and under what circumstances?
- 3) What is the explanation for the delay, if any, between the time when the FBI became aware of the attack and its notification to the FRTIB?
- 4) Why did the FBI not simultaneously report the attack to Congress at the same time the FRTIB was notified?

The Honorable Robert S. Mueller, III
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For questions related to this matter, please have your staff contact [redacted] on my
staff at [redacted]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. Collins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M".

Susan M. Collins
Ranking Member