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ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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April 18, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform continues its examination of the federal government's approach to civilian employee compensation. As part of its work, the Committee is reviewing the appropriateness of the General Schedule (GS) as a pay scale for today's workforce. The GS system was developed in 1949 when more than 75 percent of federal workers held clerical positions in grades GS-7 or below. Much has changed since that time, including the nature of agency work.

We would like GAO to examine the GS system, including the extent to which it addresses critical skills gaps and its ability to appropriately compensate employees who achieve results, within available resources. Specifically, we would like you to (1) examine data on the number of workers and types of occupations covered under the GS system and the extent to which this has changed over time; and (2) compile and analyze views and studies of experts on the GS and other classification systems to identify the attributes of a modern, effective classification system and the extent to which the GS system is consistent with those attributes. The experts may include representatives of, e.g., academe, nonprofit public policy organizations, federal agencies exempt from Title 5, United States Code, federal employee organizations, and state and foreign governments.

Please have your staff contact Jennifer Hemingway or James Robertson of the majority staff at 202-225-5074 or Lena Chang of the minority staff at 202-225-5051 with questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Chairman



Blake Farenthold
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Workforce,
U.S. Postal Service and the Census



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Stephen Lynch, Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and the Census