



**Woodrow Wilson
International
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LEE H. HAMILTON
President and Director

SENATOR DANIEL K. AKAKA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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The Hon. Daniel K Akaka
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management,
The Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia
Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6250

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It was a pleasure to see you at the hearing on January 9th and I regret that our schedules precluded a round of questions and answers between us. I also want to thank you for your letter of January 10, 2007 and your excellent question concerning the authorities of the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

It has long been my view that that GAO should have the same authorities with respect to the Intelligence Community as it does with respect to other agencies of the federal government. In short, I agree with you that the GAO should have the authority to audit financial transactions and evaluate the programs and activities of the intelligence community.

The intent of your bill, the Intelligence Community Audit Act of 2007 (S.82), is a very good one. I concur with you that Congressional oversight committees would benefit from the ability to task GAO to conduct audits and evaluations of the intelligence community. The Intelligence Community, in turn, would benefit from its agencies being held to the same high standards of performance as other agencies of the Federal Government.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lee H. Hamilton

All the best!