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February 8, 2018

The Honorable Heather Wilson
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Wilson,

I write to express my deep concern regarding a recently awarded \$24 million contract to replace refrigeration units on two VC-25A aircraft.

I understand that the contract in question was a sole source contract utilizing a single subcontractor that was deemed to be the only entity capable of performing the work. That determination was made by the prime contractor after completing a market survey with little to no input from the Air Force. Based on the information currently available, I am disappointed that the Air Force appears to have not considered pursuing a competitive sourcing process for this work.

I fully appreciate that the VC-25A mission brings with it very unique requirements and that challenges always exist when maintaining aging platforms. However this case raises serious questions about the Air Force's contracting process. I therefore request the following information:

- 1) What due diligence was required on the part of the prime contractor and did the Air Force review this analysis before awarding the contract? At what level was this information reviewed?
- 2) What is the structure of the Air Force's contract with the prime contractor and did it properly incentivize the prime contractor to seek out the most affordable solution in this case?
- 3) Replacement of the VC-25A refrigeration units is planned to be completed in 2020. The Presidential Aircraft Replacement is currently scheduled to achieve initial operational capability in 2024. What analysis, if any, was done to weigh the size of this investment against the limited service life remaining for the VC-25A platform?

As Ranking Member on the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces which oversees both the VC-25A and Presidential Aircraft Replacement program, I request an expedited response to this inquiry so that we may consider the oversight implications during the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act process.

Sincerely,

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress