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February 5, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

The total amount of federal resources dedicated to public relations activities is largely unknown. In 2014, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) estimated that federal agencies spent \$892.5 million on contracts for advertising services in fiscal year 2013 -- but that amount does not include the internal agency and other resources that may be dedicated to other public relations activities.

That is why, on October 7, 2015, I wrote to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget asking for a breakdown of all Executive Branch spending on advertising, public relations and media relations efforts. Since OMB is unable to process this request, I am turning to GAO for assistance.

With increasing pressures on limited federal resources, limited available spending information, and the changing media landscape, we would like GAO to examine information available on the following issues:

1. How much is spent across the federal government on public relations activities, including contracts and internal agency support?
2. Which federal agencies spend the most on public relations activities, and what are the primary purposes and reported benefits from these investments?

Your staff may contact Peter Warren with the Budget Committee staff at (202) 224-0642 with any questions concerning this information request.

Sincerely,



Mike Enzi
Chairman