



Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
1717 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 700
Washington DC 20006-4614

JAN 20 2010

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0549

Dear Congressman Issa:

Thank you for your January 8, 2010 letter outlining your concerns regarding jobs that are reported under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act).

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is responsible for writing the implementing guidance for the Recovery Act. Although the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board (Board) works closely with OMB to implement the Recovery Act, the Board does not have any responsibility for issuing guidance related to the policy of the Recovery Act. That said, during the first reporting period, we did note that there appeared to be significant confusion on how to report jobs created or saved and, as a result, we strongly advocated to OMB for revised guidance.

In mid-December, OMB provided the Board a draft copy of the revised guidance before it was published. Our review of the guidance focused primarily on whether FederalReporting.gov could support the policy changes outlined in the guidance given that the next reporting period was to commence within two weeks. We determined that technical changes were not needed to support the revised guidance. We also noted that the new job estimates guidance was easier to understand and addressed recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendations regarding the job estimates. Finally, it is important to note that, from an Inspector General's perspective, the ability to audit jobs funded with Recovery Act money is considerably easier than auditing the more subjective "jobs created or saved."

In light of the changes to the job estimates guidance, Recovery.gov will be changed to indicate that the jobs reported by recipients during this most recent reporting period reflect jobs that were funded by the Recovery Act between October 1 and December 31, 2009. We will also include information on Recovery.gov that will explain how job estimates were calculated in the first reporting period and how they were calculated in the most recent reporting period.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your staff may contact Nancy DiPaolo, Assistant Director of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at 202-254-7954.

Sincerely,

Earl E. Devaney
Chairman