

Chairman Henry A. Waxman issued the following statement regarding the transition efforts of the Government Accountability Office:

The 2008 election ushers in an era of remarkable promise and hope for positive change for our country. With the new Obama Administration and a new Congress we will have a fresh start in addressing the challenging policy issues facing us domestically and abroad. And we are poised to root out the waste and abuse in the federal government that has grown exponentially in recent years.

An effective transition effort is essential to ensuring that the new Administration and the new Congress hit the ground running. The appointment process should proceed smoothly and efficiently so that quality individuals are in place and ready to lead our federal agencies in a timely manner. New and returning personnel across the executive and legislative branches also must have access to top experts and the most up-to-date analyses on pressing domestic and international matters.

I am very pleased that the Government Accountability Office has established a range of resources to support the transition process in the executive and legislative branches. GAO's wealth of analyses and reports provide information critical to effective policy and management decisions by top government officials and their staffs. The new transition website GAO announced today will be a valuable tool for navigating GAO's variety of products.

GAO today also announced a thoughtful analysis of key areas requiring legislative and oversight attention as federal officials forge an agenda for the 111th Congress and the new Administration. I want to thank GAO for its hard work and careful thought regarding the transition, and I look forward to working with GAO in the new Congress.