



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

NOV 17 2009

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman Issa:

Thank you for your November 13, 2009 letter that outlines the concerns you have with the jobs data that was reported by recipients of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) funds and posted on the Recovery.gov website. I too have followed the media and non-profit watchdog group reports with great interest and understand that there are cases in which recipients over, under, or just plain failed to report the number of jobs that were created/saved by Recovery Act funding.

Your letter specifically asks if I am able to certify that the number of jobs reported as created/saved on Recovery.gov is accurate and auditable. No, I am not able to make this certification. However, the Board, OMB, and other federal agencies are not the only entities looking at this data – state and local agencies and every American citizen who visits Recovery.gov is also looking at the data and will help drive the accuracy of the data in future reporting cycles. So, although I am not able to certify to the accuracy of the data reported by Recovery Act recipients, I am confident that we have established a process that will lead to increasingly higher levels of accuracy in the future.

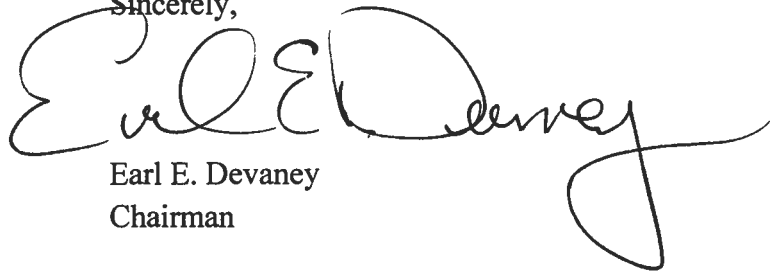
You have also asked that if I am unable to certify to the accuracy of the number of jobs reported, would I be willing to post qualifying language on Recovery.gov that alerts visitors that the information contained on the website is not accurate or auditable. I believe that I have already done this. I have repeatedly mentioned in the information I provide in the Chairman's Corner on the home page of Recovery.gov that there will be "errors and omissions in some reports." I have also referenced "Citizen IGs" who "will help us find irregularities" in the data reported. In addition, the home page of Recovery.gov clearly indicates "Jobs Created/Saved as Reported by Recipients" – it does not indicate that the data has been reviewed and audited by awarding agencies. I do not believe additional qualifying language is needed.

Finally, you ask whether the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board has access to a master list of Recovery Act recipients that were required to report but failed to do so. I expect to have access to this data shortly. I have asked OMB to work with the federal agencies responsible

for making Recovery Act awards to develop a list of awards that were subject to the Section 1512 reporting requirements of the Recovery Act but were not reported in FederalReporting.gov during the first reporting cycle. I plan to use this information to focus oversight efforts and to identify root causes that hampered Recovery Act recipients from reporting.

I look forward to discussing these and other issues with you later this week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Earl E. Devaney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the name.

Earl E. Devaney
Chairman