As an employee of a government contractor I am subject to random drug testing. I have been tested for drugs about ten times in the last five years. After each drug test it takes several days to get the results. Since I do not use drugs the only way a test could turn up positive is if I ate something or used a medication that somehow causes a positive result. But since the consequences of a positive drug test are the immediate destruction of my career, I stay worried and distracted until the results arrive. During that time I am very angry and upset. It takes me at least a week to get over a drug test and get back to doing my job well. Though I am in favor of testing "for cause", I hate random drug testing. There is no question that it is effective in preventing drug use, but it creates an atmosphere between employees and management that is poisoned with distrust and fear. Employers prefer to impose all the risks of drug testing upon the vast majority of their employees who do not use drugs, rather than confront individuals who may show signs of drug use and who may cause legal trouble if singled out.

Your random drug testing program has been very effective in preventing drug use, but has unfortunately destroyed what could have been a healthy, respectful, and productive relationship between employees and management. Some employees don't have problems with it. Others have to put up with it because they don't have any better options. But these people are not the sharpest knives in the drawer. Companies, and that includes government agencies and contractors, who subject their employees to random drug testing handicap themselves when it comes to attracting the best and brightest talent.

Now you propose to subject us to hair, saliva, and sweat testing. I think I will just leave. My talents and hard work as an engineer, and my happiness and physical and mental health are too valuable to waste in an environment like this.

I think you will understand why this letter is being sent to you anonymously.