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February 3, 2005

Ms. Marcia Madsen
Chairwoman
Services Acquisition Reform Act (SARA)
Section 1423 Advisory Panel

Dear Ms. Madsen,

Congratulations on your appointment to chair this prestigious panel.

My colleagues in the contracting profession hope that as the Panel deliberates on its recommendations for improving Federal government contracting, that the knowledge and expertise of the professionals in the field are taken into consideration.

The National Contract Management Association (NCMA) is the professional association for contract management. Included in our membership are more than 5,000 Federal contracting specialists and more than 10,000 of their industry counterparts, as well as a significant number of commercial contracting professionals outside of the Government contracting industry. These are the people in the trenches negotiating, awarding and administering contracts and subcontracts on a daily basis. In addition, many Federal and industry contracting executives are active members, to include several appointees to the Section 1423 Panel.

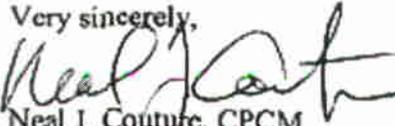
I invite you, the other Panel members, and your staff to review our monthly publication, *Contract Management*, to help you learn who these people are, the challenges they face, and the effective and often innovative ways they accomplish their objectives. We believe this will aid you immeasurably as you move forward.

I also extend an invitation to meet with you, the Panel, or your staff, at your convenience, to discuss the contracting profession. NCMA would be willing and able to organize meetings (private or town hall format) with contracting professionals to provide you the opportunity to gain their perspective.

It is important to note that NCMA is not a lobbying organization. We are not trying to influence policy. We are trying to help facilitate an important dialogue on behalf of the professional contract management community.

NCMA looks forward to contributing to the work of the Section 1423 Panel in any way we can.

Very sincerely,



Neal J. Couture, CPCM
Executive Director