

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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Majority (202) 225-2927
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March 27, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

On March 4, 2014, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology convened a hearing entitled "Reauthorization of the Federal Communications Commission: The FCC's FY 2016 Budget Request" and received testimony from the FCC's Managing Director, Mr. Jon Wilkins, concerning the commission's fiscal year 2016 budget request.

We write to you today to seek additional information on one aspect of Mr. Wilkins' testimony. During the hearing, Mr. Wilkins testified that as a part of the commission's IT modernization plans, the commission intends to relocate more than 200 large servers currently located in the District of Columbia to an off-site facility in West Virginia. Mr. Wilkins indicated that this work would be initiated "in a couple of weeks." He further testified that the contract for this service was "just finalized."

As you are aware, we have longstanding concerns with the fairness, openness, and transparency of the commission's administrative and rulemaking processes, including issues related to its document management practices. We recently wrote to you seeking additional information concerning whether the commission is fulfilling its statutory responsibilities regarding transparent and open public processes. Given the committee's strong interest in the manner in which the commission is managing its own information technologies, we are writing to seek information to better understand the facts and circumstances surrounding the planned relocation of these servers and the impact, if any, such relocation may have on the FCC's document management practices.

Accordingly, pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, we respectfully request that you respond to the following questions and requests:

1. Please describe the characteristics and condition of the servers to be relocated.
 - a. What is their capacity?
 - b. What is the current rate of usage?
 - c. How long has each server been in use?
 - d. Has each server been running continuously since its installation?
 - e. Has any server ever been relocated prior to the currently planned relocation?
2. Please provide a copy of the contract for the relocation of these servers, including all attachments and supporting materials.
3. Please explain the contractor's qualifications for relocation of servers.
4. Please explain the process for selecting this contractor, and also include the following:
 - a. Was the contract awarded through competitive bidding? If not, explain why.
 - b. Was the contractor selected the lowest-cost bid? If not, explain why.
 - c. Please identify the date on which the contract was open for bidding.
 - d. Please identify the date on which bidding closed.
 - e. Please identify the date on which the contract was awarded.
 - f. Please identify the date on which service under the contract is to commence.
 - g. Please identify the date by which the work is expected to be completed.
5. In his March 4, 2015, testimony, Mr. Wilkins stated that the relocation of the servers will "realize cost savings." Please explain.
6. In his March 4, 2015, testimony, Mr. Wilkins also stated that the relocation of the servers will "improve system resiliency." Please explain.
7. Please describe what precautions will be taken, if any, to ensure that data contained on the servers will not be lost in the process of relocating the servers.
 - a. Is the data on the servers currently backed up?
 - b. If not, will that data be backed up prior to the relocation?
 - c. If the data will not be backed up prior to relocation, please explain why.
8. Please describe what arrangements will be in place while the servers are being relocated to allow for the commission to continue its regular business.
9. If temporary databases are to be created while the servers are being relocated, please describe how the information on these temporary databases will be integrated with data on the servers when they are relocated.

We appreciate your assistance with these requests and ask for your response no later than April 10, 2015. If you should have any questions, please contact David Redl or Charles Ingebretson of the committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

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Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Chairman



Tim Murphy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations



Greg Walden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology