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House of Representatives

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Opening Statement

Rep. Robin Kelly, Ranking Member

Hearing on "The Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act's Role in Reducing IT Acquisition Risk, Part II – Measuring Agencies' FITARA Implementation" Subcommittee on Information Technology

November 4, 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today's hearing is the second hearing in a series of oversight hearings the Subcommittees will hold on FITARA implementation to help ensure agencies achieve the desired goals of the law and generate opportunities for government savings and efficiency in the procurement of Information Technology (IT).

FITARA includes a number of government-wide reforms for managing IT acquisitions and portfolios that will help ensure that the federal government is making wise and efficient investments in IT.

This hearing will help us understand the status of implementation of FITARA and how agencies are doing on four important initiatives required by FITARA that could quickly improve the management of IT and save taxpayer dollars.

Agency-wide IT portfolio review and data center consolidation are two provisions of FITARA that can quickly help agencies reduce spending, optimize IT resources, and ensure IT investments align with agency's mission and business functions.

This Committee plays an important oversight role that can increase transparency and accountability of agency implementation efforts. Earlier this year, the Committee tasked the Government Accountability Office with assessing and scoring agencies implementation of four initiatives required by FITARA, including portfolio review and data center consolidation.

Today we released the FITARA Scorecard results and will discuss the performance of the three agencies here today. While these three agencies were selected for this initial Scorecard hearing, I hope the Subcommittees will continue to hold hearings with all agencies to measure their performance and hold them accountable for fully implementing FITARA provisions.

These hearings and the FITARA Scorecard show the Committee's interest and commitment to achieving the goals of FITARA, as well as present an opportunity for agencies to demonstrate their efforts to generate savings and efficiencies in the management of IT resources.

Today, agencies are working with OMB to assess their current structure for managing IT resources and develop a plan for implementing the specific authorities that FITARA provides Chief Information Officers. Agencies are required to notify OMB of any obstacles to implementation and work with OMB to overcome those obstacles. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses on the status of FITARA implementation and the challenges agencies are facing in overhauling the management of IT resources.

I want to thank each of the witnesses for testifying today. I look forward to hearing your testimony on how agencies are approaching FITARA implementation and the desired goals of savings and efficiency in the management of IT.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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