



G A O

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Comptroller General
of the United States

United States Government Accountability Office
Washington, DC 20548

February 27, 2007

The Honorable Albert R. Wynn
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Wynn:

I am in receipt of the joint letter that you and certain other members signed dated February 23, 2007. That letter notes the importance of GAO's employees being able to engage in their protected self-organizational activities free from interference.

I understand and appreciate your interest in this matter. I have stated both internally and externally on numerous occasions that I recognize and respect the right of certain GAO employees to organize if they chose to do so. I also appreciate the fact that you and other members, by signing the letter, do not take a position for or against the establishment of a union at GAO.

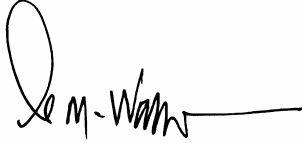
With regard to management actions, as you are probably aware, GAO's management has certain legal rights in connection with any related union organization activities. This includes the right to correct the record in connection with any false or misleading information that is provided to our employees, the press or other interested parties. In this regard, the few comments that I have made regarding this matter in the past were made primarily for this purpose. Furthermore, GAO management also has the right to challenge any attempt by the union to organize certain types of employees.

Let me assure you that we are prepared to fully support a timely election process if the union meets the related requirements for a vote. I do not know with certainty who the union is attempting to organize. Based on current law, some GAO employees have the right to be represented by a union and some do not. As you know, any challenge by management would be decided by GAO's Personnel Appeals Board.

Please rest assured that I and other members of GAO's management team have and will continue to comply with all applicable labor laws and GAO personnel orders. Furthermore, we have taken several affirmative steps to help make sure that members of GAO management are aware of our employees' rights and GAO's related obligations.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. M. Walker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David M. Walker
Comptroller General
of the United States