

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3302

AGRICULTURE  
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
SMALL BUSINESS  
(CHAIR) SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
HEALTHCARE AND TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, ENERGY AND TRADE  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST  
AND SOUTH ASIA  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM,  
NONPROLIFERATION, AND TRADE

January 26, 2012

Mr. Daniel Levinson  
330 Independence Ave SW  
Cohen Building, Room 5250  
Washington, DC 20201-0002

Dear Inspector General Levinson:

I am writing to follow up on my December 14, 2011 letter regarding the potential impropriety in the procurement of a smallpox treatment. The purpose of this letter is to express my concerns about potential abuses in the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. As Chair of the Healthcare and Technology Subcommittee on Small Business, I am required by the Rules of the House to study and investigate all types of issues facing small businesses. This jurisdiction extends to matters concerning small businesses procurements and grants.

For the purpose of protecting the integrity of the small business programs and the health care procurement process, which my subcommittee oversees, I feel obligated to ask questions and demand more information regarding SIGA Technologies, which received millions of dollars in numerous SBIR grants for the development of their smallpox drug treatment. These competitive grant awards are reserved exclusively for small, often start-up companies. However, at the time of the awards, it appears SIGA was not a small business.

I remain focused on the integrity of the procurement process making certain that it affords small businesses a fair opportunity to compete for government contracts and grants. I ask you to investigate these alleged SBIR abuses. In particular, was SIGA a small business at the time they received multiple awards for millions of dollars from the SBIR program? If SIGA was not a small business, will the money be returned to the American tax payers?

Sincerely,



Renee Ellmers  
Chairwoman

Subcommittee on Healthcare and Technology  
House Committee on Small Business