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Congress of the United States
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April 9, 2021

Mr. Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G St NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Re: Need to Immediately Secure and Protect Federal Property

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro:

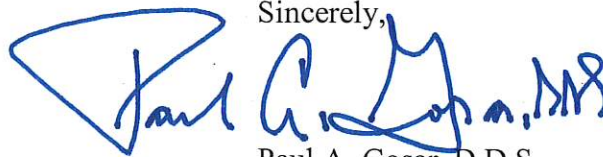
I write to you to bring your immediate attention to the urgent need to itemize, secure, and account for United States government property that is worth tens of millions of dollars and is currently left unsecured and unaccounted for.

In December 2020, Congress approved \$1.375 billion towards the funding of the border wall. The wall is constructed in segments, and these segments presently sit in unguarded heaps at our southern border due to the current Administration's halt of wall construction. On a recent trip to visit the southern border within my district in Yuma, Arizona, I was able to personally see these unused segments of the southern border wall. It is a waste of taxpayer money to not use these segments to finish the job authorized by Congress. Further, leaving these expensive segments on pallets or stacked on top of each other is a flagrant misuse of government property and this practice poses a high risk for unnecessary theft, vandalism, and corrosion. Finally, leaving the wall incomplete is in direct violation of the Impoundment Control Act.

In my view, the Biden Administration is in violation of Congressional directives to build the border wall. Mr. Biden, by order, stopped all construction and ordered the federal subcontractors to cease and desist. This reckless maneuver prevented contractors from demobilizing in an orderly fashion, thus wasting taxpayer dollars. My constituents and the greater American public do not deserve for their hard-earned incomes to be wasted by virtue of bureaucratic failure. The wall panel segments, which idly lay in stacks due to the haphazard orders, are expensive government property paid for by taxpayers. The wall itself is estimated to cost \$20 million per mile.

It is my understanding that the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) chief function is to examine the ways in which taxpayer dollars are spent and to aid the efficiency of the federal government. These unused border materials are not only an inefficient and purposeless waste of taxpayer dollars, but are directly contributing to an avoidable border crisis which current Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas recently disclosed as the worst the situation has been in 20 years. Therefore, I encourage the GAO to review this matter and make arrangements to inventory the segments and assign security details to protect these federal assets.

Given the Biden Administration's most recent consideration to resume border wall construction, I am asking for your assistance to remedy this issue and order protective services for the expensive materials. Preventing the loss and destruction of this property is a fundamental duty of the government and I hope you will act in the best interest of the American taxpayer by conducting an inventory check of the hundreds of unused border wall segments. As GAO correctly stated last year, "Faithful execution of the law does not permit the president to substitute his own policy priorities for those that Congress has enacted into law."

Sincerely,
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.", with a large, stylized initial "P" on the left.

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress