AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

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November 18, 2026

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chair Paul, Ranking Member Peters, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents over 800,000 federal and District of Columbia employees in more than 70 agencies, I write to urge you to oppose the confirmations of Eric M. Ueland to be the Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office. AFGE is deeply concerned that the Senate appears intent on ignoring the law governing the selection of the comptroller general and confirming Mr. Ueland in the waning days of the 119th Congress.

Since its establishment in 1921, GAO has been an essential resource to the U.S. Congress, auditing, evaluating, and investigating government agencies and operations, including the nonpartisan civil service. Given that the comptroller general serves a 15-year term, federal law directs Congress to establish a bipartisan, bicameral commission to recommend at least three individuals for the president to nominate for confirmation when the office becomes vacant. The thoroughness and transparency of this selection process have ensured that the comptroller general possesses the professional experience, leadership ability, and temperament to tell Congress the truth, without fear or favor and regardless of which party controls the Senate, House, and White House at any particular time during the comptroller general's long tenure.

If Mr. Ueland is indeed the most qualified candidate to serve as the ninth comptroller general for the next 15 years, Congressional leaders should follow the law and allow the selection process to prove it. Failure to obey the law and confirm Mr. Ueland after a hasty pro forma hearing would guarantee that as comptroller general, Mr. Ueland would operate with a permanent credibility deficit that would call into question all of GAO's work for years to come. For this reason alone, Mr. Ueland's nomination should be opposed in committee.

Sincerely,

Daniel Horowitz

Daniel Horowitz
Legislative Director