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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

September 12, 2006

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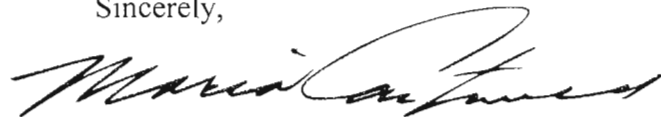
Mr. Ramon Garcia
2302 West Leola Street
Pasco, Washington 99301

Dear Mr. Garcia,

In response to my inquiry on your behalf, I have received the enclosed correspondence from the Department of Energy. I hope you find the agency's response to be helpful.

I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention and giving me the opportunity to assist you in resolving this issue. Please feel free to contact my office in the future, should you need assistance with another matter involving the federal government.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

MC: jp

PLEASE REPLY TO:

2930 WETMORE AVENUE
SUITE 9B
EVERETT, WA 98201
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FAX: (425) 303-8351

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(360) 696-7838
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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 11, 2006

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senator
Jackson Federal Building
915 Second Avenue, Suite 3206
Seattle, Washington 98174

Dear Senator Cantwell:

This is in response to your letter of July 12, 2006. Thank you for requesting our assistance to help Mr. Ramon Garcia do business with the Pacific Northwest National laboratory (PNNL). The PNNL performs basic and applied research to deliver energy, environmental, and national security for our nation. PNNL is a Department of Energy (DOE) sponsored Federally Funded Research and Development (R&D) Center that has been managed and operated by the Battelle Memorial Institute since 1965.

Mr. Garcia's firm, Ramgar Robotics, Inc. of Pasco, Washington, is a service-disabled veteran-owned small business concern (SDVOSB) that specializes in robotics research and software development. In the back-up information you provided, Mr. Garcia alleges that though he deems his firm to be qualified, he has not had success doing business with PNNL because of unfair subcontracting practices. It does appear that PNNL has not been able to find a match between Mr. Garcia's capabilities and the needs of the laboratory at this time.

In looking at the performance data we have on PNNL, however, it appears that PNNL is doing a good job of contracting with service disabled veterans in general. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2005, PNNL awarded \$19,515,680 to veteran-owned small business concerns (VOSB) and \$825,847 to SDVOSBs. These amounts reflect 4.2 percent and 0.2 percent of PNNL total subcontracting base of \$466,950,067, respectively. For FY 2006, PNNL has proposed a SDVOSB subcontracting goal of 1.5 percent, and has achieved 2.7 percent in SDVOSB awards through July 2006. PNNL estimates that it may exceed the Statutory Goal of 3 percent by the end of FY 2006¹. Additionally, PNNL has awarded 4.8 percent of its FY 2006 subcontracting base to VOSB concerns.

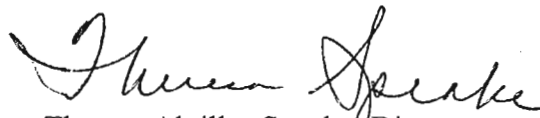
¹ The Statutory Goal for SDVOSBs is 3% at both the prime and subcontracting levels. The authority for SDVOSB contracting goals is Public Law 106-50 § 502(b) (1999).



We welcome all small business owners desiring to work with DOE and its contractors and are recommending that Mr. Garcia peruse through the DOE forecast of prime and subcontracting business opportunities, which can be accessed at: <http://hqinc.doe.gov/forecast> for other opportunities that may fit his company qualifications. All opportunities are cross-referenced by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes, State, solicitation method, contracting activity, incumbent contractor, Departmental Elements, release quarter, and award quarter.

Finally, we welcome Mr. Garcia to work with Nickolas A. Demer, SDVOSB advocate, at the Department's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. Mr. Demer can be reached directly by phone at (202) 586-1614 or by e-mail at Nickolas.Demer@hq.doe.gov. If there is anything else we can provide you, please do not hesitate to contact Kathy Peery of the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 586-2794 or me directly by phone at 202-586-8383 or by e-mail at Theresa.Speake@hq.doe.gov.

Sincerely,



Theresa Alvillar-Speake, Director
Office of Small and Disadvantaged
Business Utilization

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510