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2ND DISTRICT, ARKANSAS



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December 19, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write today to inform you that your agency is the most recent recipient of my Golden Fleece Award. I am awarding the Golden Fleece to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) because it could not account for an estimated 34.3 percent of laptops purchased between 2013 and 2017.

According to a recent DOT Office of Inspector General (OIG) report DOT purchased 5,448 laptops between FY 2013 to 2017 at a cost of approximately \$8.6 million. Further, the OIG report states, “[the OIG] estimate[s] that DOT could not account for 1,870 or 34.3 percent of the 5,448 laptops in the universe. This represents \$2.9 million in funds that could have been put to better use (33.8 percent of the \$8.6 million in the universe).”<sup>1</sup> Our government agencies must ensure proper controls are in place so equipment purchased with taxpayer funds does not go unaccounted for.

When our nation is more than \$23 trillion in debt, our federal agencies must be good stewards of taxpayers’ dollars. Should you require any additional authority from Congress to address these concerns, I urge you to notify us as soon as possible. I thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

French Hill  
Member of Congress

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General. “Gaps in Internal Controls Impede the Department’s Management of Working Capital Fund Laptops.” Report No. ZA2020006. November 4, 2019. 5.