



May 6, 2009

Dr. Peter Orszag
Director
U.S. Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Dr. Orszag:

The historic passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has provided states with much needed funding to stabilize and ultimately stimulate their local economies. As these funds become available, state agencies and local governments must ensure that they are spent efficiently while maintaining the appropriate controls and reporting mechanisms to ensure accountability and transparency.

The National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) represents the directors of the central purchasing offices in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia and the U.S. territories. These chief procurement officers (CPOs) and their staffs have full and practical knowledge of current applicable laws, best practices, strategies, and processes within the parameters of their own state procurement regulations.

NASPO has recently issued a resolution encouraging state Governors and the U.S. Office of Management & Budget to include state CPOs in the development and implementation of state and federal strategies and guidance for spending stimulus money provided to the states as a result of the Act (see attached).

This resolution further recognizes that state procurement professionals are uniquely positioned to assist in the development of guidelines regarding use, timelines and transparency of efforts and purchases compelled by the Act and will be responsible for developing the contracts that states and localities will use in conjunction with spending the money released to the states by the Act.

In closing, I urge you and your colleagues in the Federal government to look to NASPO as a collective resource on proper contracting procedures and reporting of state finances authorized by the Act.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that these stimulus funds are spent in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack J. Gallt".

Jack J. Gallt
NASPO Association Director

Attachment

cc: Danny Werfel, OMB Deputy Controller