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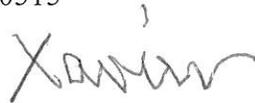
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

July 28, 2014

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Social Security
B-316 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Becerra:



Thank you for your letter requesting that Stephen Goss, Chief Actuary of the Social Security Administration be invited to testify at tomorrow's hearing.

As you know, the title of tomorrow's hearing is not "Hearing on the 2014 Annual Report of the Social Security Board of Trustees." Rather the title of the hearing is: "Hearing on What Workers Need to Know about Social Security as They Plan for Their Retirement." The financial status of the Social Security programs is just one of the many topics that will be discussed at the hearing.

Since I became Chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security in January 2011, the Subcommittee has had two hearings focused solely on the findings of the Annual Report of the Trustees, one on June 3, 2011, and one on June 21, 2012. At both hearings testimony was received from the current two Public Trustees, Charles Blahous and Robert Reischauer, not Stephen Goss. The trustees sign the Annual Report, not the Chief Actuary. The trustees are the public officials who stand behind the report for the U.S. taxpayer and as Mr. Goss works for them, it is only correct that they appear as the official witnesses.

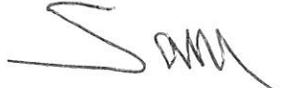
Both Dr. Blahous and Dr. Reischauer were nominated by President Obama and confirmed by a Democrat-controlled Senate via voice vote on September 16, 2010.

As always, the minority is welcome to invite a witness of their choosing to the hearing, and I fully respect any witness decision you choose to make.

Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Social Security
July 28, 2014
Page 2

I hope this information is helpful, and I look forward to working with you to address the many challenges facing Social Security.

Sincerely,



SAM JOHNSON
Chairman