



National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property

Shane T. Bailey, President (Alabama)
Curtis A. Howard, Vice President (Illinois)
Scott Pepperman, Secretary (Pennsylvania)
Marilyn Trachsel, Treasurer (Missouri)
<http://www.nasasp.org>

February 8, 2008

The Honorable Members of the House Subcommittee on
Government Management, Organization & Procurement

RE: H.R. 752

Dear Committee Members:

Members of NASASP, Inc. are the State Agencies for Surplus Property (SASPs) of the 50 States, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. We represent 67,000 organizations including villages, towns and townships, counties, 8 (a) businesses, public educational institutions, public health agencies, public safety (police and fire), libraries, not-for-profit organizations including private schools, veteran's homes, senior centers, homeless shelters, food banks, and other eligible recipients as determined by Federal law. Our Agencies ensure fair and equitable distribution of Federal surplus property. All recipients of the donated property are held accountable under Federal and State statutes. We network across the country and the world with our donee organizations through a system of communications, warehousing and transportation. We serve the neediest of America's organizations.

The United States Congress fulfills its responsibility under the United States Constitution to "make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property of the United States." In the exercise of this authority, Congress has passed laws about property designed to serve the best interests of the citizens. These laws are based on the premise that the public is the actual owner of Government property and Federal agencies that hold and utilize such property are merely custodians of it. Consequently, personal property management laws require Federal agencies to transfer excess personal property to other Federal agencies as the highest utilization of such property. When no Federal need is expressed, the next highest priority is to transfer the property, and continue its public use through the SASPs. This system has served the public well for many years, allowing the property to continue to serve the public throughout its useful life.

NASASP applauds the support shown by Mr. Butterfield, Mr. Conyers, Ms. Lee, Mr. Honda, and Mr. Baca to further the advancement of underserved areas, organizations, and individuals of our nation by transferring technology into the hands of those who need it but can't afford to buy it. Such donations will assist in narrowing the gap of the "Digital Divide" across America.

NASASP supports the donation of Information Technology (IT), e.g., computers, copiers, fax machines, etc., to public and private organizations qualified to provide education and training to assist the underserved areas of our states. Such organizations currently participate in the Federal Surplus Property Donation Program.

It is imperative that the Federal agencies take the necessary steps to ensure that no personal computer, server, external storage device, or related electronic component is transferred to the general public that might contain sensitive or confidential information. It is just as important that an IT donation system include mechanisms to prevent donations of unusable equipment, and ensure that when the useful life of equipment ends, it is disposed of in an approved manner. NASASP encourages the Federal agencies to continue to provide access to grants and other funding to support state-wide, consumer-based electronic recycling policies. Such donations from the Federal government to local organizations within states will further decrease the potential for contamination of land-fills.

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) oversees the fair and equitable disposition of all excess and surplus federal property. GSA promulgates rules and regulations for the enrollment, transfer, and donation of personal property to the SASPs that result in accountability and reduce the potential for fraud, waste, and abuse. Donations are made only to organizations with clear missions of public service and documented goals and programs to aid our nation's citizens. It is important that the Federal government maintain centralized accountability of donations. The process in place, managed by the SASPs, ensures fair and equitable distribution.

NASASP requests that this Subcommittee address our concerns. We encourage you to enable the SASPs to continue furthering the goals of the Federal Surplus Property Donation Program by making the federal government's surplus IT equipment available to the taxpayers through the SASPs.

NASASP also requests that we be consulted concerning any contemplated changes to the Exchange Sale Authority in law or regulation, and that we be invited to testify at any and all hearings on this matter, as well as on any matter affecting the personal property disposal process, including IT equipment. As the sole conduit for placing Federal surplus personal property back into the hands of the American taxpayers for over 60 years, we are singularly well qualified to offer testimony on this subject.

Pro Bono Publico,

Shane T. Bailey
President
NASASP, Inc.