



Comptroller General  
of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20548

Perry  
144609

## Decision

**Matter of:** Jeffery B. Bland

**File:** B-244757

**Date:** August 7, 1991

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Jeffery B. Bland for the protester,  
Lester Edelman, Esq., and Allan Tyrrell, Esq., Department of  
the Army, for the agency.  
Anne B. Perry, Esq., Office of the General Counsel, GAO,  
participated in the preparation of the decision.

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### DIGEST

Private person who does not represent any entity participating  
in questioned procurements and protests only as concerned  
taxpayer is not an interested party under Bid Protest  
Regulations. 56 Fed. Reg. 3,759 (1991) (to be codified at  
4 C.F.R. § 21.0(a)).

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### DECISION

Jeffery B. Bland protests the decision not to extend the  
contract of Souder Company by the Department of the Army under  
contract No. DACW54-90-C-0026.1/ Bland argues that he is "not  
a contractor but a concerned tax payer" who believes a full  
investigation into the agency's actions is warranted.

We dismiss the protest.

Bland requests that we conduct an investigation into the  
Army's actions regarding its determination regarding the  
Souder contract and related solicitations. However, our  
Office does not conduct investigations as part of our bid  
protest function. Caelus Devices, Inc.--Recon., B-241336.3,  
Dec. 14, 1990, 90-2 CPD ¶ 491.

Further, in order to maintain a protest in our Office a  
protester must be an interested party. 56 Fed. Reg. 3,759

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1/ We previously dismissed Souder's protest against the  
decision of the agency not to extend its contract since Souder  
had no legal right to compel the exercise of a contract  
option. Souder Co., B-243309, Mar. 18, 1991.

(1991) (to be codified at 4 C.F.R. § 21.0(a)). The interested party requirement serves to ensure that the protesting party has a sufficient stake in the outcome of the protest. Information Mktg. Int'l, B-216945, June 28, 1985, 85-1 CPD ¶ 740. Whether a party is sufficiently interested depends on its status in relation to the procurement, the nature of the issue raised, and how these circumstances show the existence of a direct or substantial interest on the part of the protester. Id. Private persons who do not represent any entity participating in a questioned procurement and protest only as concerned taxpayers are not interested parties under our Regulations. Turbine Engine Servs., B-210411.2, Apr. 3, 1984, 84-1 CPD ¶ 376.

The protest is dismissed.



for

Paul Lieberman  
Assistant General Counsel