

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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March 18, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

Over the past ten months, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (Committee) has conducted a bipartisan investigation into allegations of whistleblower retaliation and misconduct by senior leaders of the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General (DOC OIG).¹ Congress takes whistleblower retaliation seriously, especially when an Inspector General is alleged to be the perpetrator. The OIG serves an important purpose in protecting against waste, fraud, and abuse. For this reason, allegations of misconduct within OIGs towards their own staff fundamentally undermine their credibility.

Over the course of the Committee's investigation, which included depositions, staff-level meetings, transcribed interviews, and document review, it became clear that much of the senior leadership of the DOC OIG – including Acting Inspector General Roderick Anderson – was entangled in the allegations that had been brought to the Committee's attention. The Committee has reviewed credible evidence that some senior officials participated in alleged misconduct, other senior officials claimed to be the victims of it, and some may have both furthered alleged misconduct and been subject to it themselves. The muddled nature of the situation reflects the dysfunctional professional environment within the DOC OIG during IG Gustafson's tenure.

In the wake of IG Gustafson's resignation, Deputy Inspector General Roderick Anderson serves as the Acting Inspector General for the Department of Commerce. Given the Committee's preliminary investigatory findings, we do not believe that any senior official within the Department of Commerce OIG is able to lead the office. Therefore, to ensure the DOC OIG can fulfill its statutory mission until the nomination and confirmation of a permanent Inspector General, we request that you designate an Acting Inspector General who is not currently serving within the

¹ Press Release, Lucas and Lofgren Tell Commerce IG to Stop Withholding Documents, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (Jul. 31, 2023), <https://science.house.gov/press-releases?ID=A7831E03-7CA9-4A57-9C38-4CB62CC1BE36>.

DOC OIG. The office will struggle to move forward until a qualified individual from outside the OIG arrives to serve as Acting Inspector General, and we urge you to act promptly to identify and select such an individual. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Frank Lucas
Chairman
House Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology



Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology

cc:

Gina M. Raimondo
Secretary
Department of Commerce

Roderick Anderson
Acting Inspector General
Department of Commerce

Mark L. Greenblatt
Chairperson
Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency