

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301

(202) 225-6371

www.science.house.gov

June 6, 2023

The Honorable Peggy Gustafson
Inspector General
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Inspector General Gustafson:

On April 5, 2023, the Committee informed you that Congress had received serious allegations of wrongdoing in the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).¹ As a result, the Committee launched a bipartisan investigation and held transcribed interviews with several employees. In continuation of this investigation, we request that the OIG provide the following materials, documents, and communications² no later than June 20, 2023. Please provide the documents on a rolling basis as available.

1. All materials provided to Senator Roger Wicker regarding the hiring of [REDACTED].
2. All materials provided to the Office of Special Counsel concerning the claims made by [REDACTED].
3. All documents and communications between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] concerning or related to the [REDACTED].

¹ Letter from Frank Lucas, Chairman, and Zoe Lofgren, Ranking Member, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, to Peggy Gustafson, Inspector General, Dep't of Commerce (Apr. 5, 2023), https://republicans-science.house.gov/index.cfm?a=Files.Serve&File_id=659B0CE2-9B05-456F-8C10-B3DA1016AE56; see also Press Release U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of the Inspector General, Inspector General's Statement regarding an Investigation by the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee (April 11, 2023), <https://www.oig.doc.gov/OIGPublications/2023-04-12%20IG%20Response%20to%20HSST.pdf>.

² "Documents and communications" includes, but is not limited to, comments, notes, emails and attachments, legal or other memoranda, telephone logs, letters, text messages, meeting minutes, calendars and calendar invitations, and slides and presentations.

4. All documents and communications between [REDACTED] and IG Gustafson concerning or related to the hiring of [REDACTED].
5. All documents and communications concerning or related to [REDACTED]'s 2018 performance evaluation and bonus, [REDACTED].
6. All documents and communications sent by or to IG Gustafson concerning or related to [REDACTED]'s 2018 performance evaluation, [REDACTED].
7. All documents and communications between IG Gustafson and [REDACTED] between January 2022 through August 2022 concerning or related to the implementation of the RR-1 working group recommendations and the decision to remove [REDACTED] from [REDACTED]'s line of supervision.
8. All documents and communications between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] between January 2022 through August 2022 related to planning or implementation of the new RR-1 working group recommendations.
9. All documents and communications between [REDACTED] and Human Resources personnel concerning or related to the June 2022 removal of [REDACTED].
10. All documents and communications between or among [REDACTED] [REDACTED] between March 2022 through August 2022 concerning or related to the changes to the [REDACTED] team and the implementation of the new RR-1 working group representations.
11. All documents and communications between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] regarding [REDACTED], specifically relating to the decision to place [REDACTED] in charge of certain investigations rather than other senior officials.
12. All documents and communications concerning or related to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to cease utilizing attorneys for investigations, including proposals to hire or promote attorneys for this purpose.

³ This decision was referenced by [REDACTED] in his transcribed interview before the Committee on May 17, 2023. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Additionally, please provide any documents or communications uncovered during this production that could reasonably represent a violation of federal whistleblower law or any other violation of federal law. Should you have any questions, please contact Dario Camacho of the Majority staff or Sara Palasits of the Minority Staff.

Sincerely,



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



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