

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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April 5, 2023

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

Dear Inspector General Gustafson:

The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is investigating allegations that you and senior members of your office have engaged in whistleblower retaliation. These reports also allege gross mismanagement, lack of productivity, and the publication of false or misleading statements to Congress. Based upon the allegations received and evidence reviewed, the Committee has concluded that further investigative steps are warranted.

This investigation is being conducted with bipartisan support pursuant to this Committee's jurisdiction prescribed in House Rule X. The Committee is concerned with the potential for waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement at the Department given the billions of dollars recently appropriated under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act which specifically fall within the oversight purview of the OIG. To combat these concerns, the Committee is considering various legislative reforms to strengthen existing oversight tools and other good governance practices. Inspectors general are empowered by Congress to identify and inform the Legislative Branch regarding incidents of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. To accomplish this, inspectors general must work with whistleblowers and maintain strong reputations in their parent agencies to facilitate a disclosure friendly environment. For this reason, retaliatory behavior from within offices of inspectors general against their own staff fundamentally undermine the purpose of the OIG and will not be tolerated.

We will be contacting the staff members listed below for transcribed interviews or depositions pursuant to House and Committee rules. These interviews will be taken under oath and participants will be subject to all applicable laws including, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

[REDACTED]

Please have each of the individuals included above, or their respective attorneys, independently reach out to the Committee to schedule their interviews no later than April 20, 2023. We will provide further notification if interviews with additional Commerce OIG staff are necessary. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact Dario Camacho of the Committee's Majority staff at (202) 225-6371 or Sara Palasits of the Committee's Minority staff at (202) 225-6375.

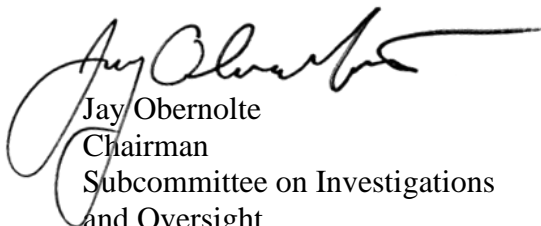
Sincerely,



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



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



Jay Obernolte  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Investigations  
and Oversight  
House Committee on  
Science, Space, and Technology



Valerie Foushee  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Investigations  
and Oversight  
House Committee on  
Science, Space, and Technology