

**“Top Challenges For Science Agencies: Reports from the Inspectors
General – Part 2”**

Hearing Opening Statement by the Honorable Dan Maffei (D-NY)
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
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Mr. Chairman,

I want to join you in welcoming our witnesses today. We have a tight schedule this afternoon, so I promise I will not use my whole five minutes--I really want to hear from these witnesses.

The former Chairman of the Recovery, Accountability and Transparency Board, Earl Devaney, pointed out that history shows approximately 7% of any large expenditure is likely to be subject to fraud.

We have Inspectors General precisely to help us locate waste, fraud and abuse and provide accountability to the American people that we are good stewards of their tax dollars. They are expected to be watchdogs first and foremost.

IGs have a tough job. They have to watch that the agency follows the law. They have to guard taxpayer dollars. They have to offer advice and direction to management without getting so close to their Agency heads that they lose their independence. On the one hand they answer to the President and on the other they have to answer to Congress.

All three of our witnesses have had experience standing up to those pressures, and all demonstrate somewhat different choices in how to navigate through them. Even if we do not always agree with their conclusions or like the implications of what they find, I want to recognize that all three offices work hard to produce meaningful audits,

carry forward criminal investigations and produce thoughtful reports that provide perspective on management challenges.

I particularly want to point to the Department of Energy IG's shop as an office that provides a good model for others in how to balance your work.

Mr. Chairman, I am particularly looking to these witnesses to tell us about the impact of sequestration on the work of their offices and to offer us insights into how their agencies might adapt to sequestration in the most cost-effective fashion. Across-the-board cuts done mid-year may be producing potential waste and unanticipated costs. It would be useful for the Committee to gather whatever information we can on this matter to inform our actions going forward.

With that, I yield back.