

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Attachment 2

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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[www.science.house.gov](http://www.science.house.gov)

August 26, 2014

To all Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General Staff:

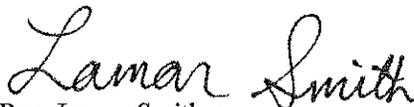
As Members of Congress the protection of federal employees who report instances of unethical behavior, waste, fraud, abuse or mismanagement by leaders in their own offices is an issue that we take very seriously. Oversight of federal agencies is an important function of Congress and our Committee. As you are probably aware, our Committee has been investigating several management issues in the Department of Commerce's Office of Inspector General (OIG). We want to assure all Commerce OIG staff that we take allegations of mismanagement and especially retaliation against employees by management extremely seriously and we have repeatedly emphasized this to the current leadership of your office.

Most often allegations of this sort are investigated by the Inspector General of the agency involved, who by statute has a key role in helping to protect federal whistleblowers. However, when that system is hindered or intentionally impeded, Congress often serves as a vehicle for disclosure as well. Congress relies upon Inspectors General to perform a critical oversight function and we admire and value the work of OIG staff in carrying out those efforts. It is part of our responsibility to ensure that dedicated public servants can work without fear of reprisal for doing the right thing. If you have information that you would like to disclose in confidence to the Committee we ask that you contact our staff listed below:

Raj Bharwani, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Oversight, Majority staff may be reached at (202) 225-6371 or [Rajesh.Bharwani@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rajesh.Bharwani@mail.house.gov). Doug Pasternak, Chief Investigator, Subcommittee on Oversight, Minority staff may be reached at (202) 226-8892 or [Doug.Pasternak@mail.house.gov](mailto:Doug.Pasternak@mail.house.gov).

We thank you for your devotion to public service and commitment to the principles that will help ensure effective management and a positive work environment moving forward.

Sincerely,



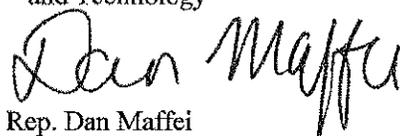
Rep. Lamar Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Science, Space  
and Technology



Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Science, Space  
and Technology



Rep. Paul Brown, M.D.  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight



Rep. Dan Maffei  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight