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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

KEITH B. ASHDOWN, STAFF DIRECTOR
GABRIELLE A. BATKIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

March 20, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to take swift action to address the vacancies of permanent Inspectors General (IGs) in the federal government. At present, we understand there are seven vacancies of Presidentially-appointed IGs and four vacancies of agency-appointed IGs. As you know, the absence of permanent, Senate-confirmed or agency-appointed IGs in these positions impedes the ability of these offices to identify and expose waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government. In addition, acting IGs in these roles create the potential for conflicts of interest, diminish independent IG oversight, and cause instability for IG offices.

The Inspector General Act established IGs to “promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the administration of, and . . . to prevent and detect fraud and abuse in” programs and operations of the government.¹ Permanent leadership in IG offices is vital for guaranteeing IG independence, promoting transparency and accountability in government operations, and ensuring that federal taxpayer dollars are well spent.

According to our information, the current vacancies of Presidentially-appointed IG positions are the Department of the Interior, the Agency for International Development, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the General Services Administration, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and the Central Intelligence Agency. Only two nominations are currently pending before the Senate for these vacancies.

The current vacancies of agency-appointed IG positions are the National Archives and Records Administration, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, the Denali Commission, and the Federal Trade Commission.

We respectfully request that you move expeditiously to nominate permanent IGs for the Presidentially-appointed positions and ask your agency heads to do the same. In January 2013, sixteen Senators from this Committee wrote to you requesting prompt action to fill then-pending IG vacancies.² As then, we stand ready to work with you and the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) to identify qualified and capable candidates for these positions.

¹ 5 app. U.S.C. § 2.

² Letter from Sen. Thomas R. Carper et al., to President Barack Obama (Jan. 24, 2013).

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
Chairman



Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member

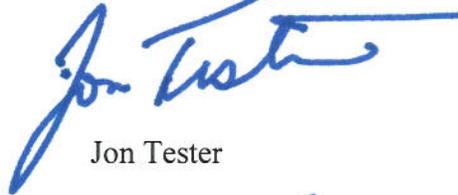


John McCain



Claire McCaskill

Rob Portman



Jon Tester



Rand Paul



Tammy Baldwin



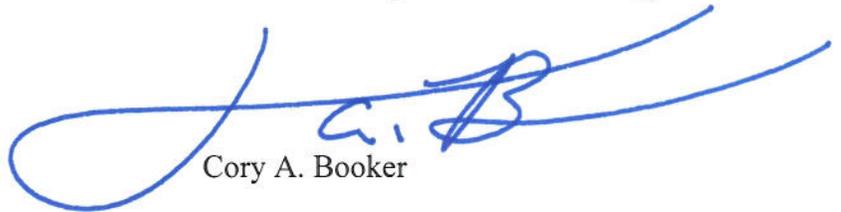
James Lankford



Heidi Heitkamp



Michael B. Enzi



Cory A. Booker



Kelly Ayotte



Gary C. Peters

Joni Ernst

Ben Sasse

cc: The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior

The Honorable Alfonsho E. Lenhardt
Acting Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development

The Honorable Martin J. Gruenberg
Chairman
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

The Honorable Robert A. McDonald
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Ms. Denise Turner Roth
Acting Administrator
General Services Administration

The Honorable Fred P. Hochberg
Chairman and President
Export-Import Bank of the United States

The Honorable John O. Brennan
Director
Central Intelligence Agency

The Honorable David S. Ferriero
Archivist of the United States

Ms. Alice Maroni
Acting Director
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Mr. Joel Neimeyer
Federal Co-Chair
Denali Commission

The Honorable Edith Ramirez
Chairwoman
Federal Trade Commission