

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<https://oversight.house.gov>

December 5, 2024

Ms. Jill Baisinger
Acting Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Acting Inspector General Baisinger:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an acting inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an acting inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

Our offices of inspectors general serve to hold government—and its leaders—accountable. Although the transition from one administration to the next can bring change and uncertainty, Congress designed offices of inspectors general to be insulated from shifts in politics and priorities that often accompany changes in administrations. For example, unlike most appointments that are subject to the Senate’s advice and consent process and are subject to term limits, the length of an inspector general’s term is indefinite, allowing continuity of oversight and expertise across administrations.² Lastly, I assure you that support for offices of inspectors general is not of a partisan nature. For example, the bipartisan Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2016 passed unanimously on voice vote in the House of Representatives and the Senate, strengthening the independence of inspectors general. In December 2022, Congress passed additional provisions on inspector general independence and empowerment with bipartisan support in the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.³

¹ See, for example, *Trump’s Department of Government Efficiency is Poised to Cut Waste*, Forbes (Nov. 20, 2024) (online at www.forbes.com/sites/mikepatton/2024/11/20/trumps-department-of-government-efficiency-is-poised-to-cut-waste/).

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³ Pub. L. No. 117-263.

Ms. Jill Baisinger

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I will be making this letter public, and I invite all offices of inspectors general to contact my office if your independence is undermined.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Krista Boyd
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20415

Dear Inspector General Boyd:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

Our nation’s inspectors general serve to hold government—and its leaders—accountable. Although inspectors general appointed by the President may be removed, this authority should be used rarely, judiciously, and only for cause—never for partisan reasons. The Inspector General Act of 1978 requires that if the President intends to remove a sitting inspector general, he must first notify Congress at least 30 days beforehand.² Congress established these requirements to give inspectors general the freedom to identify problems within an administration without fearing that the President would immediately remove them from office.

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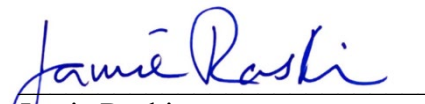
The Honorable Krista Boyd

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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Sandra D. Bruce
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Inspector General Bruce:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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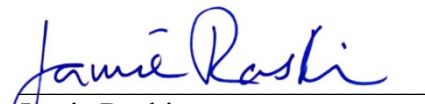
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The Honorable Sandra D. Bruce
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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Fara Damelin
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Inspector General Damelin:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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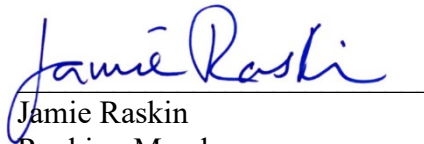
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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Rae Oliver Davis
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Inspector General Davis:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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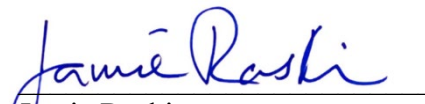
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Ranking Member

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December 5, 2024

Mr. Richard Delmar
Deputy Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Deputy Inspector General Delmar:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as a deputy inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As a deputy inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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Mr. Richard Delmar

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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Teri L. Donaldson
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Inspector General Donaldson:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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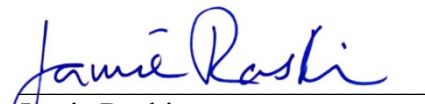
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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Terrence Edwards
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
National Reconnaissance Office
14675 Lee Road
Chantilly, VA 20151

Dear Inspector General Edwards:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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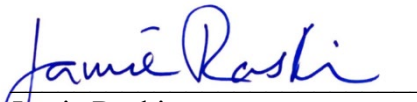
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December 5, 2024

Mr. Robert C. Erickson
Deputy Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Deputy Inspector General Erickson:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as a deputy inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As a deputy inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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Mr. Robert C. Erickson

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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Jennifer L. Fain
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
3501 Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22226

Dear Inspector General Fain:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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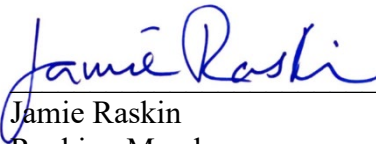
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I will be making this letter public, and I invite all inspectors general to contact my office if your independence is undermined or if you are being pressured or threatened with removal in any way, including if anyone falsely suggests that your position is temporary.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

⁴ Pub. L. No. 117-263.

Congress of the United States

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

December 5, 2024

The Honorable Robert Feitel
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Inspector General Feitel:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

Our nation’s inspectors general serve to hold government—and its leaders—accountable. Although inspectors general appointed by the President may be removed, this authority should be used rarely, judiciously, and only for cause—never for partisan reasons. The Inspector General Act of 1978 requires that if the President intends to remove a sitting inspector general, he must first notify Congress at least 30 days beforehand.² Congress established these requirements to give inspectors general the freedom to identify problems within an administration without fearing that the President would immediately remove them from office.

Although the transition from one administration to the next can bring change and uncertainty, Congress designed your role as an inspector general to be insulated from shifts in politics and priorities that often accompany changes in administrations. For example, unlike most appointments that are subject to the Senate’s advice and consent process and are subject to term limits, the length of an inspector general’s term is indefinite, allowing you to serve across administrations.³ Lastly, I assure you that support for inspectors general is not of a partisan

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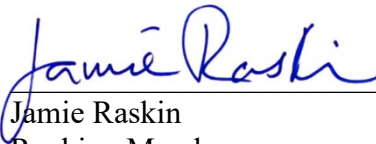
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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Phyllis Fong
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Inspector General Fong:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

Our nation’s inspectors general serve to hold government—and its leaders—accountable. Although inspectors general appointed by the President may be removed, this authority should be used rarely, judiciously, and only for cause—never for partisan reasons. The Inspector General Act of 1978 requires that if the President intends to remove a sitting inspector general, he must first notify Congress at least 30 days beforehand.² Congress established these requirements to give inspectors general the freedom to identify problems within an administration without fearing that the President would immediately remove them from office.

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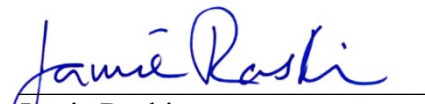
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Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

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December 5, 2024

Mr. Kevin Gerrity
Deputy Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
National Security Agency
9800 Savage Road, Suite 6247
Fort Meade, MD 20755

Dear Deputy Inspector General Gerrity:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as a deputy inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As a deputy inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

Our offices of inspectors general serve to hold government—and its leaders—accountable. Although the transition from one administration to the next can bring change and uncertainty, Congress designed offices of inspectors general to be insulated from shifts in politics and priorities that often accompany changes in administrations. For example, unlike most appointments that are subject to the Senate’s advice and consent process and are subject to term limits, the length of an inspector general’s term is indefinite, allowing continuity of oversight and expertise across administrations.² Lastly, I assure you that support the work of inspectors general is not of a partisan nature. For example, the bipartisan Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2016 passed unanimously on voice vote in the House of Representatives and the Senate, strengthening the independence of inspectors general. In December 2022, Congress passed additional provisions on inspector general independence and empowerment with bipartisan support in the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.³

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Mr. Kevin Gerrity

Page 2

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Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Mark Lee Greenblatt
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Inspector General Greenblatt:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

Our nation’s inspectors general serve to hold government—and its leaders—accountable. Although inspectors general appointed by the President may be removed, this authority should be used rarely, judiciously, and only for cause—never for partisan reasons. The Inspector General Act of 1978 requires that if the President intends to remove a sitting inspector general, he must first notify Congress at least 30 days beforehand.² Congress established these requirements to give inspectors general the freedom to identify problems within an administration without fearing that the President would immediately remove them from office.

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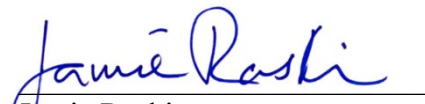
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Very truly yours,



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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Christi Grimm
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Department of Health and Human Services
330 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Inspector General Grimm:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

Our nation’s inspectors general serve to hold government—and its leaders—accountable. Although inspectors general appointed by the President may be removed, this authority should be used rarely, judiciously, and only for cause—never for partisan reasons. The Inspector General Act of 1978 requires that if the President intends to remove a sitting inspector general, he must first notify Congress at least 30 days beforehand.² Congress established these requirements to give inspectors general the freedom to identify problems within an administration without fearing that the President would immediately remove them from office.

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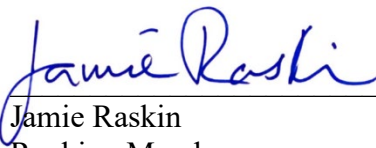
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Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

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Congress of the United States

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December 5, 2024

Ms. Heather M. Hill
Acting Inspector General
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
901 D Street, SW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Acting Inspector General Hill:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an acting inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an acting inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

Our offices of inspectors general serve to hold government—and its leaders—accountable. Although the transition from one administration to the next can bring change and uncertainty, Congress designed offices of inspectors general to be insulated from shifts in politics and priorities that often accompany changes in administrations. For example, unlike most appointments that are subject to the Senate’s advice and consent process and are subject to term limits, the length of an inspector general’s term is indefinite, allowing continuity of oversight and operations across administrations.² Lastly, I assure you that support for the work of inspectors general is not of a partisan nature. For example, the bipartisan Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2016 passed unanimously on voice vote in the House of Representatives and the Senate, strengthening the independence of inspectors general. In December 2022, Congress passed additional provisions on inspector general independence and empowerment with bipartisan support in the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.³

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Ms. Heather M. Hill
Page 2

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

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December 5, 2024

Shanon E. Holman
Principal Deputy Performing the Duties of Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Railroad Retirement Board
844 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Principal Deputy Holman:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as a principal deputy performing the duties of inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As a principal deputy performing the duties of inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

Our offices of inspectors general serve to hold government—and its leaders—accountable. Although the transition from one administration to the next can bring change and uncertainty, Congress designed offices of inspectors general to be insulated from shifts in politics and priorities that often accompany changes in administrations. For example, unlike most appointments that are subject to the Senate’s advice and consent process and are subject to term limits, the length of an inspector general’s term is indefinite, allowing continuity of oversight and expertise across administrations.² Lastly, I assure you that support for the work of inspectors general is not of a partisan nature. For example, the bipartisan Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2016 passed unanimously on voice vote in the House of Representatives and the Senate, strengthening the independence of inspectors general. In December 2022, Congress passed additional provisions on inspector general independence and empowerment with bipartisan support in the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.³

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Shanon E. Holman

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Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Inspector General Horowitz:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

Our nation’s inspectors general serve to hold government—and its leaders—accountable. Although inspectors general appointed by the President may be removed, this authority should be used rarely, judiciously, and only for cause—never for partisan reasons. The Inspector General Act of 1978 requires that if the President intends to remove a sitting inspector general, he must first notify Congress at least 30 days beforehand.² Congress established these requirements to give inspectors general the freedom to identify problems within an administration without fearing that the President would immediately remove them from office.

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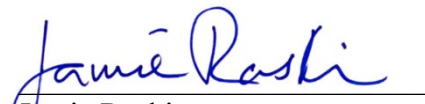
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Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

⁴ Pub. L. No. 117-263.

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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Paul K. Martin
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523

Dear Inspector General Martin:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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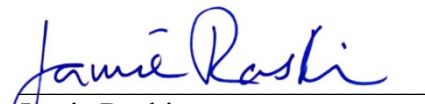
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Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Michael J. Missal
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Inspector General Missal:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

Our nation’s inspectors general serve to hold government—and its leaders—accountable. Although inspectors general appointed by the President may be removed, this authority should be used rarely, judiciously, and only for cause—never for partisan reasons. The Inspector General Act of 1978 requires that if the President intends to remove a sitting inspector general, he must first notify Congress at least 30 days beforehand.² Congress established these requirements to give inspectors general the freedom to identify problems within an administration without fearing that the President would immediately remove them from office.

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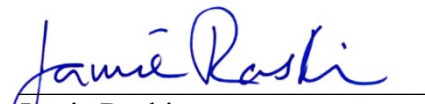
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I will be making this letter public, and I invite all inspectors general to contact my office if your independence is undermined or if you are being pressured or threatened with removal in any way, including if anyone falsely suggests that your position is temporary.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

⁴ Pub. L. No. 117-263.

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<https://oversight.house.gov>

December 5, 2024

The Honorable Sean W. O'Donnell
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Environmental Protection Agency and Chemical Safety Hazard and Investigation Board
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Inspector General O'Donnell:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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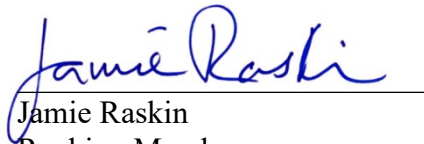
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December 5, 2024

Mr. Stephen Ravas
Acting Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps)
250 E Street, SW, Suite 4100
Washington, DC 20525

Dear Acting Inspector General Ravas:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an acting inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an acting inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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Mr. Stephen Ravas

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Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Cardell K. Richardson
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Department of State and U.S. Agency for Global Media
PO Box 9778
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Inspector General Richardson:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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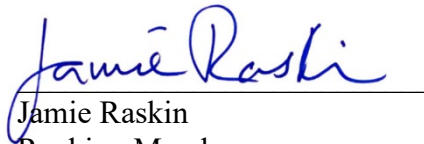
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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Parisa Salehi
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Export-Import Bank of the United States
811 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20571

Dear Inspector General Salehi:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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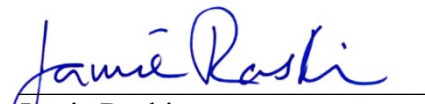
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Ranking Member

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December 5, 2024

Mr. George Scott
Acting Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Acting Inspector General Scott:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an acting inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an acting inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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Mr. George Scott

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Jamie Raskin
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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Eric J. Soskin
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Inspector General Soskin:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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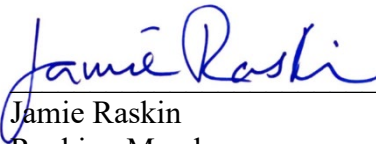
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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Robert P. Storch
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Department of Defense
4800 Mark Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22350

Dear Inspector General Storch:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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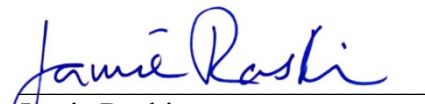
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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Brian Tomney
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Federal Housing Finance Agency
400 7th Street, SW, Suite 3.201
Washington, DC 20219

Dear Inspector General Tomney:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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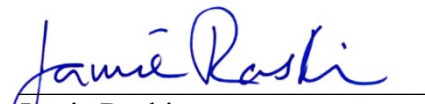
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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Larry D. Turner
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Inspector General Turner:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

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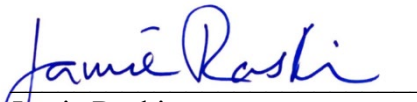
² Inspector General Act of 1978, 5 U.S.C. Appendix §3.

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I will be making this letter public, and I invite all inspectors general to contact my office if your independence is undermined or if you are being pressured or threatened with removal in any way, including if anyone falsely suggests that your position is temporary.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

⁴ Pub. L. No. 117-263.

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<https://oversight.house.gov>

December 5, 2024

The Honorable Ben R. Wagner
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902-1499

Dear Inspector General Wagner:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

Our nation’s inspectors general serve to hold government—and its leaders—accountable. Although inspectors general appointed by the President may be removed, this authority should be used rarely, judiciously, and only for cause—never for partisan reasons. The Inspector General Act of 1978 requires that if the President intends to remove a sitting inspector general, he must first notify Congress at least 30 days beforehand.² Congress established these requirements to give inspectors general the freedom to identify problems within an administration without fearing that the President would immediately remove them from office.

Although the transition from one administration to the next can bring change and uncertainty, Congress designed your role as an inspector general to be insulated from shifts in politics and priorities that often accompany changes in administrations. For example, unlike most appointments that are subject to the Senate’s advice and consent process and are subject to term limits, the length of an inspector general’s term is indefinite, allowing you to serve across administrations.³ Lastly, I assure you that support for inspectors general is not of a partisan

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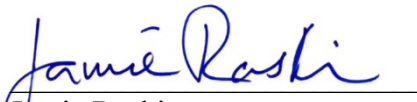
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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Hannibal Ware
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Inspector General Ware:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as an inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As an inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

Our nation’s inspectors general serve to hold government—and its leaders—accountable. Although inspectors general appointed by the President may be removed, this authority should be used rarely, judiciously, and only for cause—never for partisan reasons. The Inspector General Act of 1978 requires that if the President intends to remove a sitting inspector general, he must first notify Congress at least 30 days beforehand.² Congress established these requirements to give inspectors general the freedom to identify problems within an administration without fearing that the President would immediately remove them from office.

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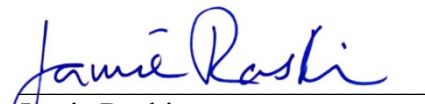
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Jamie Raskin
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December 5, 2024

Mr. Hannibal Ware
Acting Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard, Suite 300
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Acting Inspector General Ware:

I write to emphasize our unequivocal support for your leadership as acting inspector general, which is more important now than ever. As acting inspector general, your role as an independent, nonpartisan “government watchdog” who seeks to detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government and who ensures that federal agencies operate efficiently and effectively, is a critical mission, and appears to be a high priority of the incoming administration.¹

Our nation’s inspectors general serve to hold government—and its leaders—accountable. Although the transition from one administration to the next can bring change and uncertainty, Congress designed offices of inspectors general to be insulated from shifts in politics and priorities that often accompany changes in administrations. For example, unlike most appointments that are subject to the Senate’s advice and consent process and are subject to term limits, the length of an inspector general’s term is indefinite, allowing continuity of oversight and operations across administrations.² Lastly, I assure you that support for the work of inspectors general is not of a partisan nature. For example, the bipartisan Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2016 passed unanimously on voice vote in the House of Representatives and the Senate, strengthening the independence of inspectors general. In December 2022, Congress passed additional provisions on inspector general independence and empowerment with bipartisan support in the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.³

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Mr. Hannibal Ware

Page 2

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Jamie Raskin
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