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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 10, 2026

The Honorable Anthony D'Esposito
Inspector General
U.S Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20210

Dear Inspector General D'Esposito:

We are concerned by recent reports that suggest you may be engaging in political activity in violation of the Hatch Act. According to a March 4, 2026 article, you are taking steps to launch a campaign for New York's Fourth Congressional District.¹

As you know, the Hatch Act prohibits federal government employees from certain political activities, including running for a partisan office or "soliciting, accepting, or receiving political campaign contributions."² Additionally, as Inspector General, you are further restricted from taking an active part in any partisan political campaigns.³ While you reportedly intend to resign as Inspector General in order to formally declare your candidacy, the Hatch Act prohibits any preparatory or exploratory actions even prior to the official launch of a campaign.⁴ Any such political activity would also be inconsistent with the testimony you provided during your confirmation hearing, raising questions about the veracity of your sworn statements.⁵

Your congressional campaign committee, "D'Esposito for New York," continued to receive donations through at least December 31, 2025— even after you were confirmed by the Senate to be the Inspector General for the Department of Labor.⁶ Continuing to accept campaign contributions or engage in partisan political campaign activity after you took office as Inspector

¹ Billy House, "Anthony D'Esposito to vie for congressional seat he lost to Laura Gillen, sources say," *Newsday* (Mar. 4, 2026) (www.newsday.com/long-island/politics/elections/anthony-desposito-congress-jovm7196).

² 5 U.S.C. § 7323(a)(2).

³ Department of Labor, "Political Activities and the Hatch Act," (Last updated Jan. 2025) (www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/SOL/files/2025%20-%20Political%20Activities%20Guidance.pdf).

⁴ Office of Special Counsel, Advisory Opinion (June 17, 2009) (osc.gov/Documents/Hatch%20Act/Advisory%20Opinions/Federal/When%20Candidacy%20Begins.pdf).

⁵ See Letter from Sen. Richard Blumenthal to The Hon. Jamieson Greer, Acting Special Counsel, U.S. Office of Special Counsel (Feb. 10, 2026) (www.blumenthal.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2026-02-10_letter_to_greer_desposito.pdf).

⁶ Federal Election Commission – DESPOSITO FOR NEW YORK (www.fec.gov/data/committee/C00809426/?tab=summary) (accessed Mar. 9, 2026).

General on January 5, 2026, would be a clear violation of the Hatch Act. While you appear to have now removed public access to your campaign website, it was publicly accessible as recently as February 7, 2026.⁷

Congress enacted the Hatch Act to ensure that government employees do not allow partisan politics to interfere with serving the American people. Further, an Inspector General is expected to maintain an even greater level of non-partisan independence than other federal employees. You have a responsibility to be transparent with Congress and with the public regarding any political activity you have undertaken since taking office as Inspector General.

As such, please provide answers to the following questions by March 17, 2026.

1. Has the campaign committee “D’Esposito for New York” received any contributions from any source since January 5, 2026? Please list the dates, sources, and amounts of all contributions.
2. Has the campaign committee “D’Esposito for New York” continued to operate or update your campaign website, despositoforcongress.com, since January 5, 2026?
3. Has any group or individual published advertisements in support of your candidacy since January 5, 2026?
 - a. If so, please provide any communications between yourself and the group or individual concerning the advertisement.
4. Please list any activities related to planning your congressional campaign since January 5, 2026, including:
 - a. Any meetings, calls, or other communications with individuals affiliated with D’Esposito for New York or any other committee associated with your campaign;
 - b. Any meetings, calls, or other communications with consultants or advisors relating to your campaign; and
 - c. Any meetings, calls, or other communications with campaign donors or political action committees.
5. Have you undertaken any other preliminary or exploratory activities since January 5, 2026?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

⁷ *D’Esposito for Congress* (despositoforcongress.com/).

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Permanent
Subcommittee on
Investigations