

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 17, 2017

President Donald Trump
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to take swift action to address the vacant Inspector General (IG) positions in the federal government. The Inspector General Act established IGs to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the administration and operation of the government.¹ It is our understanding that the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) has been meeting with the White House about candidates for IG positions.²

At present, we understand there are ten vacancies of presidentially-appointed, Senate-confirmed IGs and three vacancies for agency-appointed IGs. According to CIGIE, the current presidentially-appointed IG positions include the Department of the Interior, Export-Import Bank of the United States, Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Energy, Department of Defense, Office of Personnel Management, Social Security Administration, National Security Agency, Small Business Administration and Intelligence Community. Current vacant, agency-appointed IG positions include the United States Postal Service, AbilityOne Commission, and the Federal Election Commission. Many of these positions have been vacant for over one year or more, including the Department of the Interior Inspector General position, which has been vacant for over five years.³ We understand that almost all of these vacancies occurred prior to your inauguration as President.

While many acting IGs have served admirably in the absence of permanent leadership, the lack of a permanent leader threatens to impede the ability of these offices to conduct the oversight and investigations necessary to ensure that taxpayer dollars are protected, public safety risks are identified, and that whistleblowers who expose waste, fraud, and abuse are protected. In addition, the lack of a permanent IG can create the potential for conflicts of interest and diminish the essential independence of IGs.

As you continue to submit nominations for your Administration, we respectfully request that you move expeditiously to nominate permanent IGs for the presidentially-appointed positions and to ask agency heads to follow suit. We stand ready to work with you and CIGIE to promptly identify qualified and capable candidates for these positions.

¹ 5 U.S.C. app § 2 (1978).

² Email from Council on the Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency to Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Staff (Mar. 21, 2017).

³ Email from Council on the Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency to Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Staff (Mar. 14, 2017).

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

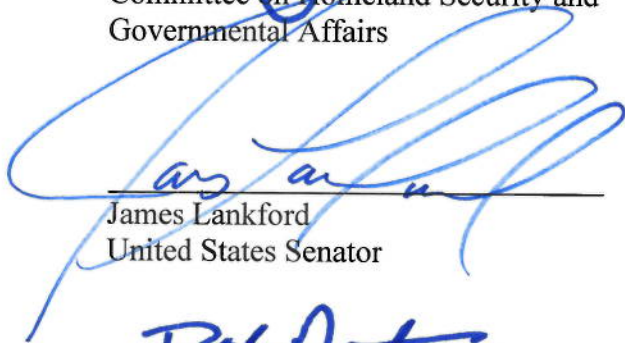
Sincerely,



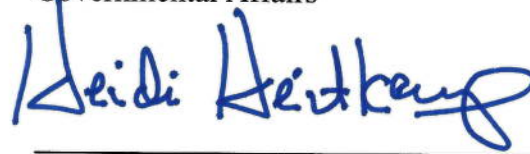
Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs



Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs



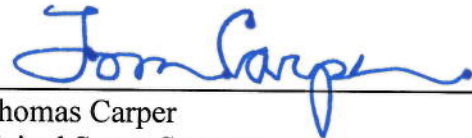
James Lankford
United States Senator



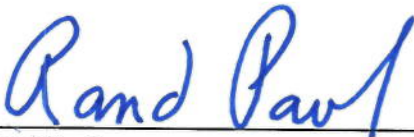
Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Rob Portman
United States Senator



Thomas Carper
United States Senator



Rand Paul
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



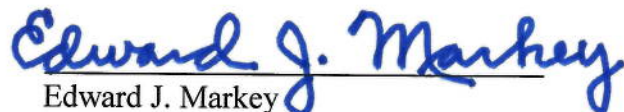
Steve Daines
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator