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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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April 7, 2020

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Chair
Ms. Allison C. Lerner
Vice Chair
Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency
1717 H Street, NW, Suite 825
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Inspectors General Horowitz and Lerner:

We are writing to request additional information regarding the role of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) in the selection of five individuals that the President has nominated to be inspectors general (IGs).

On April 3, 2020, President Trump announced his intent to nominate five individuals to currently-vacant IG positions.¹ These nominations include: Brian D. Miller to be Special IG for Pandemic Recovery; Peter M. Thomson to be IG of the Central Intelligence Agency; Katherine A. Crytzer to be IG of the Tennessee Valley Authority; Andrew A. De Mello to be IG of the Department of Education; and Jason Abend to be IG of the Department of Defense. These nominations were sent to the Senate on April 6, 2020.²

We appreciate the President's attention to filling current IG vacancies. As we wrote to the President on September 13, 2019, the lack of a permanent leader in an IG office may impede the ability of these offices to conduct oversight and investigations.³ However, in order to be effective, IGs must be qualified to manage what is often a large organization, to conduct diverse investigations and audits, and to maintain independence from the agencies they oversee.

Under the Inspector General Act, CIGIE is charged with "submit[ting] recommendations of individuals to the appropriate authority for any appointment to an office of Inspector General"⁴ To fulfill this requirement, CIGIE interviews IG candidates and submits recommendations pertaining to these candidates to the White House prior to their nomination.

¹ White House: *President Donald J. Trump Announces Intent to Nominate Individuals to Key Administration Posts* (Apr. 3, 2020), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/president-donald-j-trump-announces-intent-nominate-individuals-key-administration-posts-27/>.

² White House: *Five Nominations Sent to the Senate* (Apr. 6, 2020), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/five-nominations-sent-senate-2/>.

³ Letter from Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Peters, and Senators Portman, Carper, Paul, Hassan, Lankford, Harris, Romney, Sinema, Enzi, and Rosen to President Donald Trump (Sept. 13, 2019).

⁴ Inspector General Act (5 U.S.C. App.), Sec. 11(c)(1)(F).

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This Committee has jurisdiction over the Inspector General Act, and is tasked with vetting most inspectors general nominated by a president. Accordingly, we have worked with CIGIE and the current and past administrations during the nomination process to help facilitate the confirmation of well-qualified IGs. We believe that the perspective of current IGs is valuable, as they are uniquely qualified to understand the challenges that IGs face and to identify the qualities needed to be an effective IG.

As we consider the five individuals the President recently announced he would nominate, we respectfully request your response to the following question no later than April 17, 2020:

1. For each of the five individuals named above, please describe CIGIE's role in their selection, if any, including whether members of CIGIE interviewed these individuals and whether recommendations were submitted to the White House.

We appreciate your dedication to effective oversight and the work that CIGIE does to support IGs across government. Thank you for your consideration and prompt response.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
Chairman



Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member