

# NEWS

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## House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure **DEMOCRATS**

***For Immediate Release***  
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***Attn: National Desk, Congressional Affairs, Homeland Security***

### **Democrats Question Use of FPS Funds** *Ask DHS Inspector General for audit*

WASHINGTON—Concerns over the use of funds provided for protection of federal buildings have prompted two leading Democrats on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to request an audit from the Department of Homeland Security's Inspector General.

The request is contained in a letter sent today to DHS IG Richard Skinner from T&I Ranking Democrat James L. Oberstar (Minn.) and Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D.C.), top Democrat on the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee.

The questions have arisen since 2002, when the Federal Protective Service (FPS) was transferred to Homeland Security from the General Services Administration, which is responsible for the federal government's civilian buildings, offices and facilities. At DHS, the Protective Service became part of the agency on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The move required GSA to transfer funds to DHS each year in order to pay for security services.

"Recent press accounts as well as internal ICE newsletters have identified severe budget shortfalls in DHS and in particular within ICE," the letter states. "Moreover, in a December, 2004 report, DHS Inspector General Clark Ervin expressed serious concerns that ICE did not maintain its accounting records during 2004 and identified a void in the financial management structure at ICE."

The letter goes on to request an audit of all funds transferred from GSA to DHS and a determination whether any additional funds have been transferred from FPS to DHS and for what purpose.

Because the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will soon be working on GSA's budget for the next fiscal year, the letter requests that Skinner's office complete the audit as soon as possible.

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