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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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March 5, 2008

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The Honorable Todd J. Zinser
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Zinser:

We write to congratulate you on your appointment as the Inspector General of the Department of Commerce and for your negotiation of corrective relief for two whistleblowers who cooperated with the Committee's investigation and were subjected to wrongful retaliation by former Inspector General Johnnie Frazier. With your appointment as the Inspector General, we expect that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) will now be able to appropriately carry out personnel actions such as these, especially those necessary to rectify past abuses of your predecessor, who was widely known to have abused the personnel system to favor select employees and punish those who disagreed with him.

In addition, we thank you for expediting the production of records to the Committee by ensuring delivery of certain long-awaited electronic records to Committee investigators (e-mail communication of Johnnie Frazier and other key individuals). We are concerned, however, that given the apparent lack of responsive material contained in the computer files received, all of the relevant data has not yet been produced to the Committee.

Accordingly, we would ask that you ensure the delivery of a full, un-redacted set of those electronic records to the Committee, within one week of receipt of this letter, so our investigators have the original records of what was previously delivered to the Committee.

We appreciate your cooperation, and we look forward to working with you to restore the morale, efficiency, productiveness, and professionalism in the Office of Inspector General. Should you have any questions, please contact us or have your staff contact Steven Rangel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce staff at (202) 226-2424.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Chairman



Bart Stupak
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable John Shimkus, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations