

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

February 11, 2015

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Horowitz:

The Inspectors General are on the front lines of the effort to prevent waste and reduce inefficiency throughout the federal bureaucracy. Each year, the community of Federal Inspectors General identifies potential reforms that, if implemented, would reduce costs and improve efficiency at the agency. In fiscal year 2013 alone, approximately 14,000 employees working for 72 IGs made recommendations that resulted in significant improvements to the economy and efficiency of programs government-wide.¹ Those recommendations saved taxpayers approximately \$51.8 billion.² The savings could have been even greater, however, because many IG recommendations remain open or unimplemented.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has surveyed the IGs regarding open and unimplemented recommendations several times since 2008. The data provided by the IGs in response to the Committee's past surveys has been extremely valuable. In January 2009, Chairman Henry Waxman released the results of a survey that found nearly 14,000 unimplemented IG cost-saving recommendations could have saved taxpayers more than \$25 billion.³ In March 2013, Chairman Darrell Issa found more than 16,000 open IG recommendations worth approximately \$67 billion.⁴

We are also concerned that Inspectors General are not receiving complete, unfiltered, and timely access to the agency records that they need to make findings and recommendations. On August 5, 2014, 47 IGs signed a letter to Congress that stated:

¹ Council of Inspectors Gen. on Integrity and Efficiency, *Progress Report to the President, Fiscal Year 2013*, available at <https://www.ignet.gov/sites/default/files/files/CIGIE%202013%20Progress%20Report.pdf>. (last accessed Jan. 22, 2015).

² *Id.*

³ H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform, *Staff Report: Inspectors General: Implementing Thousands of Open Recommendations Could Save Taxpayers Almost \$26 Billion*, 110th Cong. (Jan. 2009).

⁴ H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform, *Staff Report: Open and Unimplemented IG Recommendations Could Save Taxpayers \$67 Billion*, 113th Cong. (Mar. 5, 2013).

Inspectors General have, from time to time, faced similar obstacles to their work, whether on a claim that some other law or principle trumped the clear mandate of the IG Act or by the agency's imposition of unnecessarily burdensome administrative conditions on access. Even when we are ultimately able to resolve these issues with senior agency leadership, the process is often lengthy, delays our work, and diverts time and attention from substantive oversight activities.⁵

Pursuant to its jurisdiction, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform oversees and supports the work of the Federal Inspectors General. The Committee is positioned to hold agencies accountable when they ignore or otherwise fail to implement the cost saving measures your office has identified, and to leverage the Committee's resources to make sure every IG has access to the records he or she needs to do the job.

So the Committee can better understand the volume and value of the current inventory of open and unimplemented IG recommendations, and whether you are receiving complete, unfiltered, and timely access to the agency records, please provide the following information:

1. The current number of recommendations by your office that are open or unimplemented.
2. The cumulative estimated cost savings associated with the current number of open and unimplemented recommendations.
3. For those recommendations that would result in cost savings if implemented, specify the recommendation, the date the recommendation was made, and an estimate for the cost savings that would be realized if the recommendation were implemented.
4. Which three open or unimplemented recommendations does your office consider to be the most important or urgent? For each, identify:
 - a. The status of the recommendation, including whether agency management has agreed or disagreed with the recommendation and the expected date of implementation; and,
 - b. The cost savings associated with the recommendation (if applicable).
5. A summary of all closed investigations, evaluations, and audits that were not disclosed to the public since January 1, 2014, including case number, disposition, a brief description of the allegation, and the date the investigation was closed.

⁵ Letter from 47 Inspectors Gen. to Hon. Darrell Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform, Hon. Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform, Hon. Thomas R. Carper, Chairman, S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and Hon. Tom Coburn, S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (Aug. 5, 2014) at 2.

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz

February 11, 2015

Page 3

6. List and describe any instances where the agency refused to provide, or otherwise delayed or restricted your access to, records or other information.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight Committee in the House of Representatives and has broad oversight jurisdiction as set forth in House Rule X.

Please provide the requested information as soon as possible, but by no later than March 11, 2015. Please deliver your responses to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The Committee prefers, if possible, to receive all documents in electronic format.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Jennifer Hemingway of Chairman Chaffetz' staff at (202) 225-5074 or Mark Stephenson of Ranking Member Cummings's staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jason Chaffetz
Chairman



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

2015-02-11 JC & EEC to 73 IGs - Open and Unimplemented Recommendations due 3-11 (73 letters) sent to:

IG NAME	POSITION	AGENCY
The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz	Inspector General	U.S. Department of Justice
Ms. Catherine Trujillo	Acting Inspector General	U.S. Agency for International Development
Mr. Tom Howard	Inspector General	Amtrak
Mr. Hubert Sparks	Inspector General	Appalachian Regional Commission
Mr. Kevin Mulshine	Inspector General	Architect of the Capitol
The Honorable David Buckley	Inspector General	Central Intelligence Agency
Mr. A. Roy Lavik	Inspector General	U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Mr. Christopher W. Dentel	Inspector General	U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
The Honorable Deborah Jeffrey	Inspector General	Corporation for National and Community Service
Ms. Mary Mitchelson	Inspector General	Corporation for Public Broadcasting
Ms. Kristi Waschull	Inspector General	Defense Intelligence Agency
Mr. Daniel W. Lucas	Inspector General	District of Columbia
The Honorable Phillis Fong	Inspector General	United States Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Todd J. Zinser	Inspector General	U.S. Department of Commerce
The Honorable Jon T. Rymer	Inspector General	United States Department of Defense
The Honorable Kathleen Tighe	Inspector General	U.S. Department of Education
The Honorable Gregory H. Friedman	Inspector General	U.S. Department of Energy
The Honorable Daniel Levinson	Inspector General	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
The Honorable John Roth	Inspector General	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
The Honorable David A. Montoya	Inspector General	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Ms. Mary L. Kendall	Acting Inspector General	U.S. Department of Interior
The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz	Inspector General	U.S. Department of Justice
The Honorable Scott Dahl	Inspector General	U.S. Department of Labor
The Honorable Steve Linick	Inspector General	U.S. Department of State
The Honorable Eric M. Thorson	Inspector General	U.S. Department of the Treasury
The Honorable Calvin L. Scovell, III	Inspector General	U.S. Department of Transportation
Mr. Richard J. Griffin	Acting Inspector General	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Mr. Curtis Crider	Inspector General	U.S. Election Assistance Commission
The Honorable Arthur A. Elkins, Jr.	Inspector General	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Milton Mayo	Inspector General	U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Mr. Mike McCarthy	Acting Inspector General	Export-Import Bank of the United States
Ms. Elizabeth Dean	Inspector General	Farm Credit Administration
Mr. David L. Hunt	Inspector General	Federal Communications Commission

Mr. Fred W. Gibson	Acting Inspector General	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Ms. Lynne A. McFarland	Inspector General	Federal Election Commission
The Honorable Laura S. Wertheimer	Inspector General	Federal Housing Finance Agency
Ms. Dana Rooney	Inspector General	Federal Labor Relations Authority
Mr. Jon Hatfield	Inspector General	Federal Maritime Commission
Mr. Mark Bialek	Inspector General	Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
Ms. Kelly Tshibaka	Acting Inspector General	Federal Trade Commission
Mr. Robert C. Erickson	Acting Inspector General	U.S. General Services Administration
Mr. Adam Trzeciak	Inspector General	U.S. Government Accountability Office
Mr. Michael Raponi	Inspector General	U.S. Government Publishing Office
Mr. Jeffrey E. Schanz	Inspector General	Legal Services Corporation
Mr. Kurt W. Hyde	Inspector General	The Library of Congress
The Honorable Paul K. Martin	Inspector General	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Mr. James E. Springs	Acting Inspector General	The National Archives and Records Administration
Mr. James Hagen	Inspector General	National Credit Union Administration
Ms. Tonie Jones	Inspector General	National Endowment for the Arts
Ms. Laura Davis	Inspector General	National Endowment for the Humanities
Mr. Joseph Composto	Inspector General	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Mr. David Berry	Inspector General	National Labor Relations Board
Mr. Adam G. Harris	Inspector General	The National Reconnaissance Office
Ms. Allison Lerner	Inspector General	The National Science Foundation
Dr. George Ellard	Inspector General	The National Security Agency
The Honorable Hubert T. Bell	Inspector General	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
The Honorable Patrick E. McFarland	Inspector General	U.S. Office of Personnel Management
The Honorable I. Charles McCullough, III	Inspector General	Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community
Ms. Kathy A. Buller	Inspector General	Peace Corps
Ms. Deborah Stover-Springer	Acting Inspector General	Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation
Mr. Jack Callendar	Inspector General	U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission
The Honorable Martin J. Dickman	Inspector General	U.S. Railroad Retirement Board
Mr. Carl Hoecker	Inspector General	U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
The Honorable Peggy E. Gustafson	Inspector General	U.S. Small Business Administration
Ms. Cathy Helm	Inspector General	Smithsonian Institution
The Honorable Patrick P. O'Carroll	Inspector General	U.S. Social Security Administration
Mr. John F. Sopko		Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction

The Honorable Christy Romero		Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program
The Honorable Richard Moore	Inspector General	Tennessee Valley Authority
Mr. David Sheppard	Acting Inspector General	The Denali Commission
The Honorable J. Russell George	Inspector General	Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
Ms. Fay F. Ropella	Inspector General	U.S. Capitol Police
Mr. Philip M. Heneghan	Inspector General	United States International Trade Commission
Mr. Dave Williams	Inspector General	United States Postal Service