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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6250

September 13, 2019

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]

At present, we understand there are nine vacancies of presidentially-appointed, Senate-confirmed IGs with no nominations pending and two vacancies for agency-appointed IGs.[2] The currently vacant presidentially-appointed IG positions include the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, the Office of Personnel Management, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Education, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of the Treasury.[3] Currently vacant agency-appointed IG positions are the Federal Election Commission and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.[4] Many of these positions have been vacant for over one year or more, including the Central Intelligence Agency, which has been vacant for over four years.[5]

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 the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to promptly identify qualified and capable candidates for these positions.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

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[1] 5 U.S.C. app. § 2 (1978).

[2] Project on Gov't Oversight, Inspector General Vacancy Tracker, *available at* https://www.pogo.org/database/inspector-general-vacancy-tracker/ (last accessed on September 12, 2019).

[3] *Id.*

[4] *Id.*

[5] *Id.*

Sincerely,

Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Rob Portman
United States Senator

Tom Carper
United States Senator

Rand Paul, M.D.
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

James Lankford
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Kamala D. Harris
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