



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Inspector General
Washington, D.C. 20230

May 11, 2007

Honorable John D. Dingell, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6115

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am submitting with this letter an initial production of documents in response to your letter of April 27, 2007, which consists of copies of discrete files and pre-existing compilations of documents that can easily be checked for completeness and accuracy post-production by our oversight agency. Please be assured that I am personally committed to providing the Committee with the information it seeks as quickly and completely as possible so that these allegations can be promptly and fairly resolved. My staff has been directed to cooperate fully with the Committee's investigation; our delay in providing a complete production is solely attributable to a number of factors outside of our direct control.

As your staff has been advised, I immediately began seeking independent oversight assistance after receiving your April 27 document request; however, it was not until the end of last week that we were able to obtain the tentative agreement of the Office of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration to provide such oversight services. I am certain you will understand that, in light of the serious charges of record tampering and document destruction that have been leveled against the office, I could not in good conscience subject my staff to the risk of going forward with document collection until the oversight issue was resolved. While we still are awaiting confirmation that TIGTA's proposed oversight plan has been approved by your staff, we have nonetheless moved forward and in all good faith to make as complete a production as possible by the date originally requested by the Committee.

In addition, because many of our office's administrative functions are performed by departmental or other outside entities on our behalf, we are compelled to go to sources external to the OIG to obtain all documentation that is responsive to your requests. For example, official OIG travel records are maintained at the National Institute for Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, MD; our procurement records are maintained by the Department's Office of Acquisitions; and many of the responsive personnel records are located at the Bureau of Public Debt in West Virginia. We have already alerted the appropriate entities to the Committee's request so that responsive materials can be assembled in an expeditious fashion, and will produce the documents promptly upon receipt.

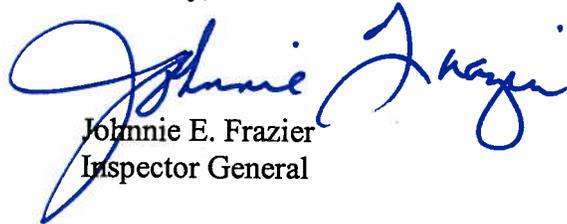


For your information, the enclosed materials represent partial productions in response to Request Nos. 1, 6, 11, and 12. Please note that documents responsive to Request No. 3 may be included in the documents produced for Request No. 1, as are documents responsive to Request No.7.

As soon as Committee staff has provided requested clarifications for a number of the listed requests and approved TIGTA's plan, we will proceed with all due speed to complete our production to the Committee.

Please have your staff contact Carolyn Croak, Acting Counsel to the Inspector General, at (202) 482-0038, if there are any questions regarding this production. Thank you for your patience and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Johnnie E. Frazier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "F".

Johnnie E. Frazier
Inspector General

Enclosures