

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 25, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to express our grave concern about your recent attempt to unlawfully and arbitrarily remove more than a dozen independent, nonpartisan inspectors general without notice to Congress or the public and in the dead of night. Your actions violate the law, attack our democracy, and undermine the safety of the American people.

Congress established Offices of Inspectors General to independently and objectively hold federal government agencies accountable.<sup>1</sup> Independent inspectors general protect Americans' investments in the federal government and root out waste, fraud and abuse. Congress, in overwhelmingly bipartisan recognition of the value of independent inspectors general to the American people and our democracy, enshrined requirements for legal removal of inspectors general designed to protect their work from political interference and intimidation. Your actions fail to satisfy the legal requirements for lawful removal.

Late in the evening on January 24, 2025, more than a dozen inspectors general received an email informing them that “due to changing priorities” their position was “terminated, effective immediately.”<sup>2</sup> The *Inspector General Act of 1978*, amended in 2022 with broad bipartisan support, requires the President to notify Congress 30 days prior to removal of an inspector general and provide “substantive rationale, including detailed and case-specific reasons” for such removal.<sup>3</sup> The email terminating the inspectors general fails to provide the required notice and a legitimate rationale, as required by law.

Firing inspectors general without due cause is antithetical to good government, undermines the proper stewardship of taxpayer dollars, and degrades the federal government's ability to function effectively and efficiently. We urge you to withdraw your unlawful action and comply with your obligations to the American people.

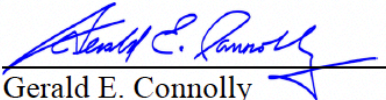
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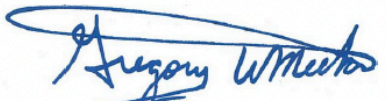
<sup>1</sup> Inspector General Act of 1978.

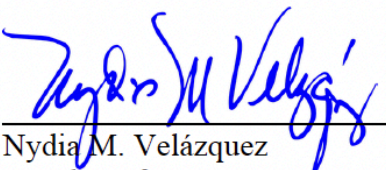
<sup>2</sup> Letter from Hannibal “Mike” Ware, Chairperson, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, to Sergio Gor, Director of Presidential Personnel, The White House (Jan. 24, 2025).


<sup>3</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 403(b), as amended by the section 5202(a) of the *Securing Inspector General Independence Act of 2022* (Title LII, Subtitle A, of P.L. 117-263, 136 Stat. 2395, 3222).

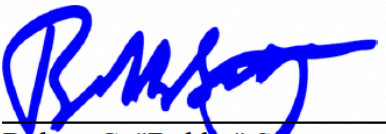
Sincerely,


  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress


  
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

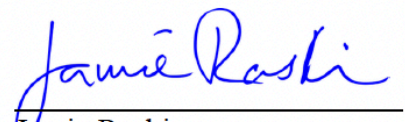
  
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

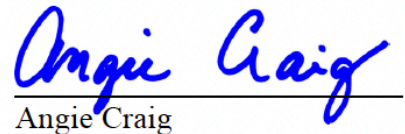
  
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

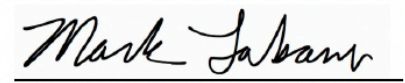
  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress


  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

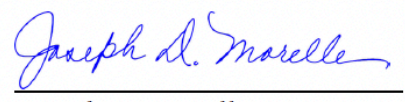
  
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

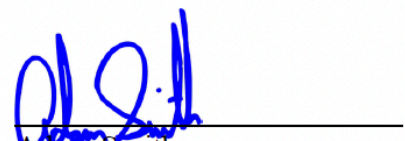
  
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

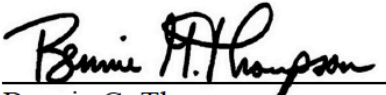
  
Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

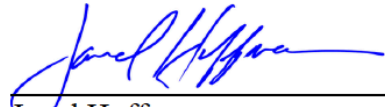
  
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

  
Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress

  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



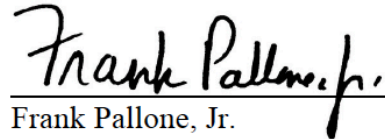
Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



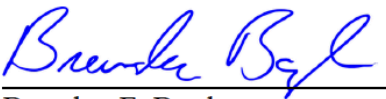
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



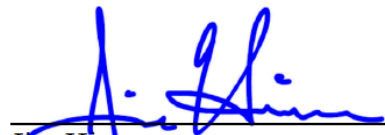
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

cc: James Comer, Chair, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
Glenn Thompson, Chair, Committee on Agriculture  
Tom Cole, Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
Mike Rogers, Chair, Committee on Armed Services  
Jodey Arrington, Chair, Committee on the Budget  
Tim Walberg, Chair, Committee on Education and the Workforce  
Brett Guthrie, Chair, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
French Hill, Chair, Committee on Financial Services  
Brian Mast, Chair, Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Mark Green, Chair, Committee on Homeland Security  
Bryan Steil, Chair, Committee on House Administration  
Jim Jordan, Chair, Committee on the Judiciary  
Bruce Westerman, Chair, Committee on Natural Resources  
Virginia Foxx, Chair, Committee on Rules  
Brian Babin, Chair, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
Roger Williams, Chair, Committee on Small Business  
Sam Graves, Chair, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Mike Bost, Chair, Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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Jason Smith, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means

Rick Crawford, Chair, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence