

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.¹ 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.”² 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.³ 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.


¹ Inspector General Act of 1978.

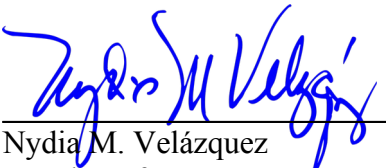
² Letter from Hannibal “Mike” Ware, Chairperson, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, to Sergio Gor, Director of Presidential Personnel, The White House (Jan. 24, 2025).

³ 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

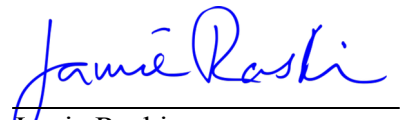

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress


Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

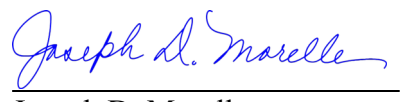

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

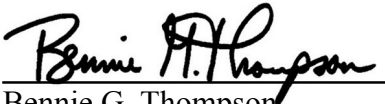

Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress

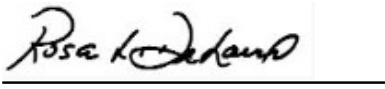

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

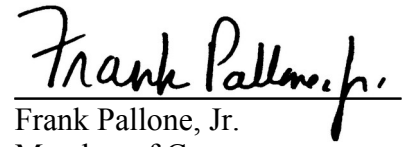

Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress

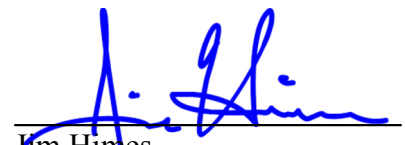

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

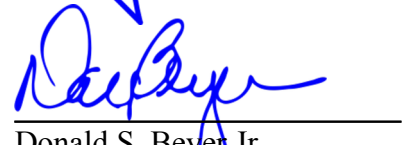

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress


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

The Honorable Donald J. Trump

Page 4

Jason Smith, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means

Rick Crawford, Chair, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence