



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

June 7, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to inform you that, effective June 29, 2007, I will retire from federal service, having spent 37 wonderful years at the Department of Commerce—the last nine of them as Inspector General.

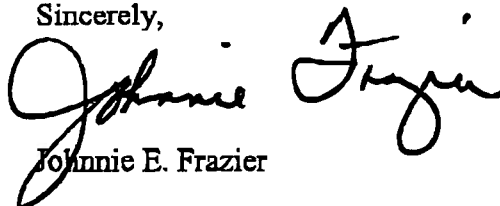
There are no words to adequately express what an honor it has been to serve this Department for so many years, and what an extraordinary privilege to be IG—serving you and the American people in a role uniquely dedicated to making government work better. I have been truly blessed by having the opportunity to work with some of the finest, most dedicated leaders ever to head a federal agency: Secretary Daley, Secretary Evans, and during these past two years, Secretary Gutierrez. Their dedication to this Department and our mutual vision for its sound operation have made my job as IG more rewarding than I could ever have imagined. We have worked together fully committed to the common goal of ensuring that Commerce is a strong, well-run, and effective agency that provides the best possible service to the public.

During my tenure as IG, Commerce officials have made impressive strides in addressing some of the top management challenges my office has identified for the Department, and this progress has continually reaffirmed my belief in the power of collaboration for affecting change. As I reflect on even the most complex, controversial, and difficult issues we have addressed together—including those about which we seriously disagreed—I am grateful for the spirit of cooperation that was always evident: Secretary Gutierrez, Deputy Secretary Sampson, and their predecessors with whom I have worked have been unfailing in supporting our mutual commitment to doing what we thought best for this Department and the nation.

Finally, I would be remiss in failing to acknowledge my disappointment and outright sadness at leaving Commerce at a time when my office and I are the subject of controversy. I assure you that we are working diligently to provide the information to address these matters as quickly as possible. And as difficult as this has been, it does not diminish my pride in and gratitude for the wonderful career I have been blessed with here at Commerce, or my appreciation for the countless outstanding people I have had the good fortune to work with along the way.

Mr. President, please accept my best wishes and my heartfelt thanks for the great honor of serving you, the Department of Commerce, and the American people.

Sincerely,


Johnnie E. Frazier

