

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS
RICK BOUCHER, VIRGINIA
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
FRANK PALLONE, Jr., NEW JERSEY
BART GORDON, TENNESSEE
BOBBY L. RUSH, ILLINOIS
ANNA G. ESHOO, CALIFORNIA
BART STUPAK, MICHIGAN
ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
ALBERT R. WYNN, MARYLAND
GENE GREEN, TEXAS
DIANA DeGETTE, COLORADO
VICE CHAIRMAN
LOIS CAPPS, CALIFORNIA
MIKE DOYLE, PENNSYLVANIA
JANE HARMAN, CALIFORNIA
TOM ALLEN, MAINE
JAN SCHAKOWSKY, ILLINOIS
HILDA L. SOLIS, CALIFORNIA
CHARLES A. GONZALEZ, TEXAS
JAY INSLEE, WASHINGTON
TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN
MIKE ROSS, ARKANSAS
DARLENE HOOLEY, OREGON
ANTHONY D. WEINER, NEW YORK
JIM MATHESON, UTAH
G.K. BUTTERFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLIE MELANCON, LOUISIANA
JOHN BARROW, GEORGIA
BARON P. HILL, INDIANA

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

JOHN D. DINGELL, MICHIGAN
CHAIRMAN

JOE BARTON, TEXAS
RANKING MEMBER
RALPH M. HALL, TEXAS
J. DENNIS HASTERT, ILLINOIS
FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN
CLIFF STEARNS, FLORIDA
NATHAN DEAL, GEORGIA
ED WHITFIELD, KENTUCKY
BARBARA CUBIN, WYOMING
JOHN SHIMKUS, ILLINOIS
HEATHER WILSON, NEW MEXICO
JOHN B. SHADEGG, ARIZONA
CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING, MISSISSIPPI
VITO FOSSELLA, NEW YORK
STEVE BUYER, INDIANA
GEORGE RADANOVICH, CALIFORNIA
JOSEPH R. PITTS, PENNSYLVANIA
MARY BONO, CALIFORNIA
GREG WALDEN, OREGON
LEE TERRY, NEBRASKA
MIKE FERGUSON, NEW JERSEY
MIKE ROGERS, MICHIGAN
SUE MYRICK, NORTH CAROLINA
JOHN SULLIVAN, OKLAHOMA
TIM MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL C. BURGESS, TEXAS
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE

DENNIS B. FITZGIBBONS, CHIEF OF STAFF
GREGG A. ROTHSCHILD, CHIEF COUNSEL

July 6, 2007

The Honorable Scott J. Bloch
Special Counsel
U.S. Office of Special Counsel
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 218
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

Dear Mr. Bloch:

We write to commend your office for the thorough investigation regarding the complaint that Inspector General Johnnie Frazier of the U.S. Department of Commerce (Department) retaliated against two high-ranking employees within the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for their whistleblowing activities. Without question, your recommendation to the President of the United States that appropriate action be taken against the Inspector General for violating the Whistleblower Protection Act was the impetus to his recent resignation. We have reason to believe, however, that retaliation in the Department may not have been limited to Mr. Frazier.

Our investigation has revealed numerous related allegations of retaliation or harassment, three of which have led to formal complaints filed with the Office of Special Counsel (OSC). Therefore, under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, we request a list of all complaints filed with your office by employees of the Department, as well as a briefing on the status of the complaints filed by:

- Thomas H. Phan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General, OIG; File Number: MA-07-1988
- James E. Woods, former Deputy Director and Acting Director, Office of Administrative Services, Department of Commerce; File Number: MA-06-1274
- Edward Yagi, Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy Nairobi, U.S. Commercial Service; File Number: MA-07-1894

The Honorable Scott J. Bloch
Page 2


Once again, we hope OSC will work expeditiously to conclude its review of all complaints relating to the Department and report its findings. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important matter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or have your staff contact Steven C. Rangel of the Majority Committee staff at (202) 226-2424 or Peter Spencer of the Minority Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Chairman



Joe Barton
Ranking Member



Bart Stupak
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations



Ed Whitfield
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations