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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

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

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March 22, 2007

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Mr. Bill A. Roderick
Acting Inspector General
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Roderick:

The President's FY2008 Budget Request for the Office of Inspector General (OIG) represents a \$5.1 million decrease from the FY2006 enacted level, which may cause a loss of approximately 30 FTE positions. Neither the House nor the Senate Appropriation Committees has acted on the FY2008 Budget.

On February 5, 2007, four days after the President submitted the FY2008 Budget, you notified all OIG employees that it was "very likely we will have to close facilities and/or conduct a reduction in force to meet our '08 budget target and prepare for operating at a continually reducing level over the long term." You already appear to have begun a buyout initiative that would require staff to leave as early as April 30, 2007.

We are concerned that if Congress does not approve the requested OIG budget cuts, your buyout initiative could cause unnecessary loss of experienced personnel, work force disruption, and waste of taxpayer dollars.

We are concerned that you are taking actions that could have a highly detrimental effect on the OIG workforce in the absence of any action by the Appropriations Committees of Congress. On its face, it appears that you are trying to make the FTE reductions proposed in the President's FY08 budget a fait accompli prior to any Congressional action or approval. We urge you not to proceed in this manner.

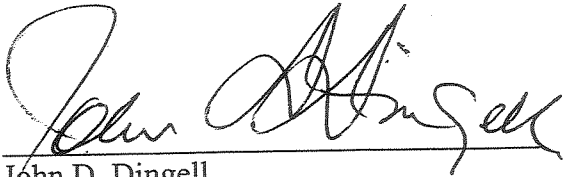
We request that you cite the specific authority that allows you to make the early buyout offers at this time and indicate when you first requested this authority for the OIG.

Mr. Bill A. Roderick
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We ask that you brief our staffs as soon as possible on all these matters and also request your assurance that no plans will be initiated, or put in place, to close any OIG field offices without providing this Committee with 60 day advance notice of any such plans.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Richard A. Frandsen or Lorie Schmidt of the Committee Majority staff at (202) 225-2927 or David McCarthy or Jerry Couri of the Minority Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

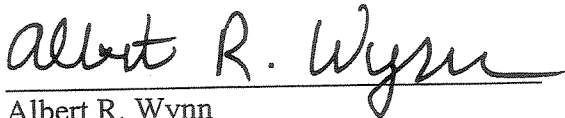
Sincerely,



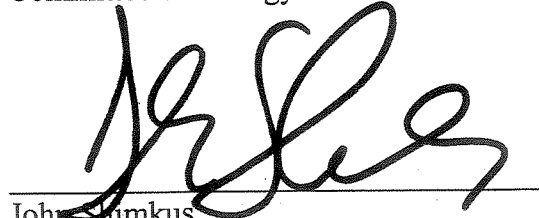
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Subcommittee on Environment and
Hazardous Materials



Hilda L. Solis
Vice Chair
Subcommittee on Environment
and Hazardous Materials

cc: The Honorable David R. Obey, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks, Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt, Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies