



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

June 23, 2006

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6200

Dear Chuck:

Thank you for your letter dated June 8, 2006, asking that I designate the Board of Regents to be the "head" of the Smithsonian Institution for purposes of the Inspector General Act of 1978. I appreciate you sharing your concerns about the pending investigations there, and I agree with your request. The Administration will begin the process of ensuring such designation is made official by revising the list of designated federal entities. I understand that the Board of Regents has already taken internal action to designate itself as the entity responsible for the appointment of the new Inspector General as well. Further, I understand the new Inspector General will report directly to the Board of Regents. These actions appear to correspond with our shared objective to ensure the next person appointed to this very important position has the leadership and capabilities to detect and prevent fraud, error, and waste across all of the Smithsonian Institution's varied activities.

The Administration is committed to working collaboratively with Congress to promote integrity, efficiency, and accountability across all Federal programs. This objective is certainly of critical importance at the Smithsonian Institution, as we work to ensure that the nation's treasures are protected wisely.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Portman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rob Portman