



**U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL**  
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December 2, 2009

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: OSC File No. DI-08-1734

Dear Mr. President:

The Office of Special Counsel received disclosures from Mr. Terry Lambert, a Safety Analysis and Evaluation Branch Manager at the Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Southwest Region Flight Standards Division in Fort Worth, Texas. Mr. Lambert, who consented to the release of his name, alleged that FAA employees in the Southwest Region office improperly attempted to conceal information relevant to a Congressional investigation of FAA oversight of Southwest Airlines (SWA).

Mr. Lambert's disclosures were referred to the Honorable Mary E. Peters, former Secretary of DOT, to conduct an investigation pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(c) and (d). Secretary Peters tasked the Office of Inspector General (OIG) with conducting the investigation. We received a report dated June 30, 2009, and a supplemental report dated October 9, 2009. Mr. Lambert provided comments on the agency's initial report to this office pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(1); his comments are enclosed. Mr. Lambert declined to provide comments on the supplemental report. As required by law, 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), I am now transmitting the reports and Mr. Lambert's comments to you.

The agency reports did not substantiate Mr. Lambert's allegations that FAA employees attempted to conceal information from Congress by ordering Mr. Lambert to destroy documents and by storing official documents at an employee's residence. The agency did, however, find that the storage of documents at an employee's home created the appearance of an attempt to conceal information, and recommended that management reinforce with employees that original documents must not be taken home or maintained at employees' residences.

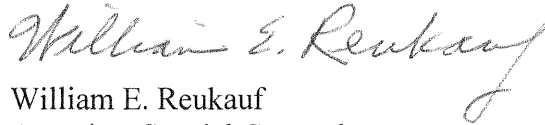
We have reviewed the original disclosures, the agency reports, and Mr. Lambert's comments. Based on that review, OSC has determined that the reports contain all of the information required by statute and that the findings appear to be reasonable.

As required by law, 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), we have sent a copy of the agency reports and Mr. Lambert's comments to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House Committee on Transportation and

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Infrastructure. We have also filed a copy of the report and Mr. Lambert's comments in our public file and closed the matter. OSC's public file is now available online at [www.osc.gov](http://www.osc.gov).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William E. Reukauf". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

William E. Reukauf  
Associate Special Counsel

Enclosures