




October 28, 2020

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** John Guenther  
Associate Deputy General Counsel and Acting Director  
for Human Resources Management and Chief Human  
Capital Officer  
U.S. Department of Commerce

**FROM:**   
Peggy E. Gustafson  
Inspector General

**SUBJECT:** Request for Information Pursuant to the Inspector General Act  
of 1978, as Amended

The U.S. Department of Commerce (Department) Office of Inspector General (OIG) is aware of recent political appointments across the Department. In order to assist OIG with its ongoing oversight efforts, please provide to my office the following information by November 2, 2020, regarding (1) all political appointments<sup>1</sup> made since October 1, 2019, as well as (2) all political appointments currently in process:

- Title of position, including bureau or Departmental office to which the position was initially assigned
- Any subsequent bureau or Departmental assignment of the position
- Date(s) filled (please include all appointments to a position since October 1, 2019)
- Appointing authority
- Name of all incumbents of the position since October 1, 2019
- Current first- and second-level supervisors
- Information regarding any detail of the position since October 1, 2019

In addition, you may also produce any additional documentation or information deemed relevant to this request.

The Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, provides the OIG with “timely access to all records” available to the Department.<sup>2</sup> Further, you are obligated to cooperate with this request per Department policy. Department Organization Order 10-13, § 4.01 states that

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<sup>1</sup> Please include all political appointments as defined by the Office of Personnel Management. See <https://www.opm.gov/faqs/QA.aspx?fid=023f2059-dff7-4307-89b4-c553c218af1d&pid=08248d29-d26e-44b6-9988-57655358d509> (accessed October 26, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> See 5 U.S.C. App. § 6(a)(1)(A).

“[t]he officers and employees of the Department shall cooperate fully with the officials and employees of the OIG and shall provide such information, assistance, and support without delay as is needed for the OIG to properly carry out the provisions of the [Inspector General] Act [of 1978].”

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (202) 482-4661.