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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

RICHARD M. RUSSELL, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR  
MARY FRANCES REPKO, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 11, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski:

I write to express my support for providing sufficient funding for EPA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year (FY) 2019.

On February 9, 2018, Arthur Elkins, EPA's Inspector General, wrote Mick Mulvaney, Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Mr. Elkins states that the President's proposed budget request of \$46 million for the OIG for FY 2019 "creates a significant challenge for the [OIG] and its ability to accomplish its agency oversight mission." Mr. Elkins explains that:

*A budget at this level would destabilize the OIG and have an immediate negative impact on the OIG's production capacity...and...would substantially inhibit the OIG from performing the duties of the office, including mandatory OIG responsibilities explicitly required by federal law.*


Mr. Elkins goes on to say that a budget of \$46 million:

*will virtually eliminate the OIG's ability to perform discretionary audits and evaluations [which] assist EPA leadership and Congress, help to hold the agency accountable, and are valuable management tools that represent a substantial source of the OIG's ability to produce a positive return on investment to taxpayers.*

Please note that since Mr. Elkins' letter, the OIG has not only expanded a number of ongoing reviews, but has also initiated additional reviews concerning a wide range of allegations related to the Office of the Administrator.

Thank you for your consideration and do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

  
John Barrasso, M.D.  
Chairman