



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

January 21, 2010

THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Edolphus Towns
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to provide you with a brief update on my office's investigation into the concerns raised by the Inspector General of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), in his letter to you dated January 11, 2010, and in your correspondence of January 12, 2010. As noted in a previous letter to you, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) takes these issues seriously, and a comprehensive investigation is well underway.

In particular, immediately upon receiving the OPM Inspector General's letter, I directed the OMB General Counsel to conduct an expedited internal review of the matter. Given that the allegations raised in the Inspector General's letter relate to an OMB program examiner (a career civil servant), OMB's investigation must be appropriate in accordance with longstanding personnel procedures established by the Congress in statutes including the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 and in implementing regulations.

We will provide more information after the investigation is completed. In the meanwhile, allow me to reiterate OMB's commitment to the basic principle established not only by the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 but also by longstanding practice: Federal inspectors general are essential to our common goal of a government that is responsible, transparent, and accountable.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns while the investigation is being conducted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Orszag", written over a horizontal line.

Peter R. Orszag
Director

cc: The Honorable Darrell Issa
The Honorable Jason Chaffetz

Identical letter sent to The Honorable Stephen Lynch