



U.S. General Services Administration
Office of Inspector General



MAY 19 2008

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Senator, R-Iowa
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance
135 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

You had requested that a further look be taken into a matter concerning alleged intimidation of GSA contracting officers by GSA OIG auditors. To maintain an arm's length stance with respect to the issue, I asked Postal Service Inspector General David C. Williams to look into it.

Inspector General Williams has just completed his report. The report debunks the baseless claims made by former GSA Administrator Lurita Doan against auditors from the GSA Office of Inspector General. Specifically, the report rejects claims that auditors intimidated contracting officers assigned to the Sun Microsystems negotiation.

The Inspector General's report indicates that, *"Former Administrator Doan met with the top 10 vendors in GSA's schedule program soon after her confirmation, and immediately embraced their complaint that the GSA Inspector General was an impediment to good business. According to published reports, at least four of these complaining vendors were subsequently charged with making false claims in Federal contracts."* The report takes note of *"the GSA Office of Inspector General's (OIG) robust oversight of the Sun contract negotiation process,"* and goes on to state, *"It appears that Doan uncritically applied the vendors' perspective to the Sun contract negotiations, despite strong evidence that Sun had long been engaged in a pattern of misconduct."*

Doan's claim that she did not learn the details of the intimidation allegation and the subsequent OIG investigation or of the Sun contract negotiations until early 2007 is inconsistent with the evidence, according to the report. It also appears that Doan continued to rely almost exclusively on Sun's executives and consultants to provide her with information about alleged OIG intimidation of contracting officers. The report concludes, *"Sun, it appears, was yielding nothing to GSA contracting officers while using its lobbying partners to try to shape Doan's views about the contract negotiations."*

18th and "F" Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20405



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I am enclosing a copy of the letter that Inspector General Williams sent to me. It should please everyone interested in this issue to know that independent investigations have, again, confirmed that the employees of the GSA OIG continue to conduct themselves with professionalism and integrity.

Sincerely,



Brian D. Miller
Inspector General

Enclosure

cc: Chairman Max Baucus