

TED STEVENS, ALASKA  
GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, OHIO  
NORM COLEMAN, MINNESOTA  
TOM COBURN, OKLAHOMA  
LINCOLN CHAFEE, RHODE ISLAND  
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH  
PETE DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO  
JOHN WARNER, VIRGINIA

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT  
CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN  
DANIEL K. AKAKA, HAWAII  
THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE  
MARK DAYTON, MINNESOTA  
FRANK LAUTENBERG, NEW JERSEY  
MARK PRYOR, ARKANSAS

MICHAEL D. BOPP, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL  
JOYCE A. RECHTSCHAFFEN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR AND COUNSEL

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 7, 2005

The Honorable Scott J. Bloch  
Special Counsel  
United States Office of Special Counsel  
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

Dear Mr. Bloch:

Congress is supportive of the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) and its important mission of safeguarding the merit system in federal employment and protecting employees and applicants from prohibited personnel practices, especially reprisals for whistleblowing. When OSC indicated that its resources were inadequate to meet statutory time lines for reviewing cases and to address a growing backlog of cases, Congress provided funding for additional staff. We recognize that you have taken initiatives that you believe will improve the efficiency of OSC operations, especially its handling of cases.

However, concerns have been brought to our attention that certain efforts to improve OSC operations may actually hinder its mission. Therefore, as part of our oversight responsibilities, it is incumbent on the members of this Committee to assure that OSC carries out its responsibility in an effective and efficient manner. We would expect that OSC has followed established policy, guidelines, and leading practices in implementing its operational improvements. Given our responsibility, we ask that you answer the following questions and requests for documents, the responses to which would help provide us with assurances that OSC has established a business case for the proposed reorganization.

## New Organizational Structure

Please provide a description of OSC's proposed new organizational structure and the reasons for all changes including the geographic locations of all organizational field units and the organizational boundaries before and after implementation of the reorganization.

## Cost and Case Management

In order to assess the cost effectiveness and case management benefits of the restructuring, please provide the following data—historical for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 and projected for fiscal years 2005 and 2006—on:

- (1) the types of cases (and numbers of each type);
- (2) the distribution (and projected distribution) where cases included above have been and will be processed;

Honorable Scott Bloch  
March 7, 2005  
Page 2

- (3) the total recurring travel expenses by each geographic location - field offices and headquarters (exclude travel expenses related to proposed relocation expenses, which are covered separately under the following bullet);
- (4) the total estimate of expenses associated with proposed geographic reassignment of employees (including but not limited to relocation expenses); and
- (5) the total operating and capital costs (leases, utilities, equipment, etc.) broken out by geographic location and major cost items.

Factors Considered in Reorganization Decision

Please explain the extent to which each of the cost and case management factors discussed above influenced the final restructuring decision. In providing these explanations, please address the rationale for establishing a third field office and the rationale for selecting the Detroit location. Please also discuss what other locations and geographic configurations were considered and why they were not selected.

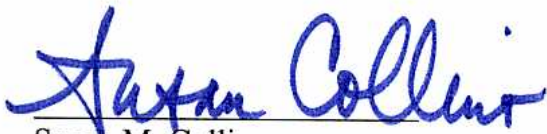
Benefits

Finally, please describe in detail the budgetary and case management benefits to be realized under the restructuring and how they were determined. Specifically, please provide:

- (1) the projected one-time cost savings, broken down by category; and
- (2) a breakdown of projected recurring savings, broken down by category.

Your responses will play an important role in the Committee's review of OSC's reorganization plan and consideration of its fiscal year 2006 budget request. As such, we ask that you provide the requested information by March 18, 2005.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
Chairman



Joseph I. Lieberman  
Ranking Member



George V. Voinovich  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Oversight of Government Management,  
the Federal Workforce, and the  
District of Columbia



Daniel K. Akaka  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Oversight of Government Management,  
the Federal Workforce, and the  
District of Columbia