

RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

JOHN McCAIN, ARIZONA
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO
RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA
MICHAEL B. ENZI, WYOMING
KELLY AYOTTE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JONI ERNST, IOWA
BEN SASSE, NEBRASKA

THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE
CLAIRE McCASKILL, MISSOURI
JON TESTER, MONTANA
TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN
HEIDI HEITKAMP, NORTH DAKOTA
CORY A. BOOKER, NEW JERSEY
GARY C. PETERS, MICHIGAN

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

KEITH B. ASHDOWN, STAFF DIRECTOR
GABRIELLE A. BATKIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

April 22, 2016

The Honorable Laura S. Wertheimer
Inspector General
Federal Housing Finance Agency
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Inspector General Wertheimer:

Recently, my staff on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee was made aware of various management changes and other issues regarding the Federal Housing Finance Agency Office of Inspector General (FHFA OIG), including claims that are before the Office of Special Counsel. In addition, the FHFA OIG's semiannual report to Congress suggests additional personnel changes that are concerning. In the course of making initial inquiries, my staff learned that Chairman Grassley's Judiciary Committee staff is currently seeking interviews with FHFA OIG staff and related documents.

This Committee is the primary oversight committee of the community of inspectors general. Independent, transparent, and accountable inspectors general are vital to rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse. To better understand the issues facing the FHFA OIG, I request the production of documents previously requested by Chairman Grassley. In addition, I ask that you make the same FHFA OIG staff available for joint Committee interviews as previously requested by Chairman Grassley.

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized by Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate to investigate "the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the Government."¹ Additionally, S. Res. 73 (114th Congress) authorizes the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs to examine "the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches of the Government including the possible existence of fraud, misfeasance, malfeasance, collusion, mismanagement, incompetence, corruption or unethical practices. . . ."²

¹ S. Rule XXV(k); *see also* S. Res. 445, 108th Cong. (2004).

² S. Res. 73 § 12, 114th Cong. (2015).

The Honorable Laura S. Wertheimer
April 22, 2016
Page 2

Please contact Michael Lueptow of the Committee staff at (202) 224-4751. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
Chairman
Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs

cc: The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs