



Denali Commission
Office of Inspector General
Anchorage, AK 99501

August 10, 2015

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson,

In response to your request of June 23, 2015, we are providing information on the Denali Commission's process for responding to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and the involvement of non-career officials.

The FOIA officer for the Denali Commission is its general counsel. According to Denali Commission officials, when FOIA requests are received, they are first reviewed by the FOIA officer. After review, the request is submitted to the Chief Financial Officer, who sends it to commission staff to search for any and all documents related to the request. Once documents are gathered, the FOIA requestor is typically allowed to review documents in person and make copies as necessary.

The Denali Commission does not have any presidential appointees. The only non-career employee is the Federal Co-Chair, who is nominated by the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and is appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. To the best of the FOIA officer's knowledge, the Federal Co-Chair has not had involvement in the Denali Commission's FOIA process other than searching relevant documents, which has not resulted in an undue delay of a response to a FOIA request or withholding of documentation since January 1, 2007.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (206) 220-7970.

Sincerely,

David Sheppard
Inspector General, Denali Commission

Enclosure 1: Denali Commission's FOIA Officer Certification
Enclosure 2: Denali Commission's Previous FOIA Officer Certification Letter

cc: Joel Niemeyer, Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission
John Whittington, General Counsel and FOIA Officer, Denali Commission
David Smith, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce

Enclosure 1. Denali Commission's FOIA Officer Certification

July 13, 2015

I certify to the best of my knowledge that 1) no non-career officials were involved in the Denali Commission's response to any FOIA request or 2) if such involvement occurred, the involvement of non-career officials has never resulted in the undue delay of a response to a FOIA request or the provision of less information than would have been provided but for the involvement of the non-career officials.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Whittington".

John Whittington

FOIA Officer (January 2015-present)

General Counsel, Denali Commission

Enclosure 2. Denali Commission's Previous FOIA Officer Certification Letter

July 10, 2015

I certify to the best of my knowledge that 1) no non-career officials were involved in the Denali Commission's response to any FOIA request or 2) if such involvement occurred, the involvement of non-career officials has never resulted in the undue delay of a response to a FOIA request or the provision of less information than would have been provided but for the involvement of the non-career officials.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard R. Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Howard Martin

FOIA Officer (April 1 2005-September 30, 2014)

Regional Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Alaskan Region