



Denali Commission
Office of Inspector General
Anchorage, AK 99501

September 21, 2015

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman, Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Chaffetz and Ranking Member Cummings,

We are providing our response to your August 27, 2015 request regarding inspectors general's access to information. As you noted in your letter, I agree that "independence and a right to access all of the agency's documents and information are foundational aspects of the IG system..." I would like to thank you and the full committee for your leadership in ensuring those principles are protected.

As you may be aware, the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General (OIG) entered into an agreement with the Denali Commission on May 28, 2014, to provide a full range of inspector general services. Pursuant to that agreement, as amended, I was appointed by the Denali Commissioners as the Inspector General (IG) for the Denali Commission on July 28, 2015. Since beginning my work with the Denali Commission in May 2014, my office has not had any instances where the agency refused to provide, or otherwise delayed or restricted, access to records or other information. While there was definite tension between the commission and the former IG, as documented in the former IG's last Semiannual Report to Congress, we were not able to find any evidence of instances where commissioners or Commission staff resisted or objected in any material manner to the former IG's requests for documents or information.

Our answers to your specific questions are as follows:

1. There were no instances within the last two years where the Denali Commission refused to provide timely, unfettered access to documents, information, or agency employees.
2. There were no instances within the last two years where the Denali Commission delayed or improperly conditioned access to documents, information, or agency employees.
3. There were no instances within the last two years where the Denali Commission provided access to documents, information, or agency employees, but asserted that, under the terms of the IG Act, the commission was not required to supply such access and may not comply with similar requests in the future.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Sheppard', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Sheppard
Inspector General, Denali Commission

cc: Joel Niemeyer, Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission
David Smith, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce