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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 26, 2010

Inspector General J. Russell George
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
1125 15th St NW, Suite 700
Washington D.C., 20005

Dear Inspector General George:

As the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, you are responsible for ensuring the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds within your jurisdiction are utilized with transparency and accountability. President Obama promised taxpayers that there would be unprecedented transparency and accountability in monitoring how the recovery act funds were awarded and distributed to prevent waste, fraud and abuse. You have worked with the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board (Board) and state and local governments to battle fraud, waste and abuse involving recovery funds.

The Board has so far referred a total 79 investigative or audit leads or cases to the appropriate Inspectors General offices regarding funds awarded under the Recovery Act. Your office has received 4 of these referrals. It is my understanding that these cases contain information that identify high-risk recipients and provide additional analysis that allows your office to conduct a more thorough investigation. In this regard I would request the following additional information:

1. What actions has your office taken in regard to each of the Recovery Board referrals and what is the status of each? If any have been closed please provide details. What process does your office use to determine whether a case will be closed or referred onward for administrative action or prosecution?
2. How many allegations of waste, fraud or abuse in the spending of Recovery Act funds has your office received or developed independently of the Recovery Board, how many have been advanced to an agency for administrative action or to a US Attorney for prosecution, and how many have been closed and for what reason?
3. Please identify the programs associated with each of the leads or cases listed in questions one and two above.
4. Please provide all audit and inspection reports that you have issued regarding Recovery Act funds and identify any audits or inspections planned or underway (if available on-

line, a list of completed reports with associated website links will suffice). Please also identify any recommendations that you have made to improve safeguards over Recovery Act funds that have not been accepted or implemented.

5. Please provide an estimate of the amount or percentage of your oversight work that will be dedicated to Recovery Act spending in FY 2010 and 2011.

Please contact my office with any questions regarding this request. I look forward to receiving your response by February 10, 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Pryor". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Mark Pryor