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United States Senate

August 18, 2016

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Rickey R. Hass, Inspector General
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Inspector General
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Inspector General Haas,

Thank you for your August 4, 2016 response to our request for an update on the ongoing review of allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse within the Desert Southwest Region (DSW) of the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA).

We understand that aspects of your review are the subject of an active criminal investigation. Given that the potential for criminal activity undermines WAPA's integrity among its customers, it is imperative that these matters be fully investigated and that any potential criminal activity be referred to the Department of Justice (DOJ), and that responsible individuals be held accountable.

We are deeply troubled by the fact that DSW has not fully implemented changes to its procurement practices and that its construction contracts have also come into question. We look forward to seeing the results of your office's comprehensive audit of both of these departments. Providing cost transparency throughout WAPA is of paramount importance to its customer groups.

Based on our ongoing interest in this matter, we request that you provide an interim briefing to our offices as soon as possible, and a final briefing upon the completion of your investigations. We appreciate your office's attention to these serious allegations and for conducting oversight of WAPA.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator



Jeff Flake
United States Senator