



Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation
Office of Inspector General
1200 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005-4026

August 3, 2015

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government
Reform
United States House of Representatives
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairmen and Ranking Members:

Last month, the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) issued an opinion regarding the DOJ Inspector General's access to information under the Federal Wiretap Act, Rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and Section 626 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act. I share the concern of many in the Inspector General community that this OLC opinion may be interpreted by some agency officials to deny other OIG's access to records necessary to fulfill our statutory mission. I write in strong support of the DOJ Inspector General, to emphasize the importance of unfettered OIG access to agency records, and to highlight the need for Congress to take action to address the possible consequences of the OLC opinion.

Quite simply, organizational independence and access to all agency records are the essential tools we need to keep the Congress fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies in our departments and agencies.

Respectfully,

Robert A. Westbrooks
Inspector General