



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Inspector General
Washington, D.C. 20230

March 20, 2013

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Co-Chair
Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Co-Chair
Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Co-Chair
Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
Co-Chair
Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Waxman, Whitehouse, Markey, and Cardin:

This letter responds to your February 25, 2013, request to review the Commerce Department's policies, environmental programs, and activities to carry out requirements that federal agencies address climate change.

To accomplish this review, we sent a memorandum to the Department's Office of General Counsel, requesting that they identify existing requirements to address climate change in law, regulation, executive order, and other directives applicable to Commerce. Once we receive this, we will assess whether Commerce is meeting those requirements and, if not, make recommendations for improvement.

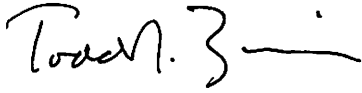
We will then address the second part of your request, which asked us to assess (1) Commerce's authorities to reduce emissions of heat-trapping pollution, (2) its authorities to make the nation more resilient to the effects of climate change, and (3) the most effective additional steps that could be taken to reduce emissions and strengthen resiliency.

We are commencing work immediately and are currently evaluating the Department's efforts to reduce energy when renovating buildings, such as our headquarters: the Herbert C. Hoover Building in Washington, DC. We are currently reviewing the Department's Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan and its Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management Plan to evaluate the Department's efforts to reduce greenhouse gases, as outlined in Executive Order 13514.



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 482-4661.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd J. Zinser", followed by a horizontal line.

Todd J. Zinser