



November 22, 2019

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Chairman
Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ben Cardin
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rubio and Ranking Member Cardin:


In accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 638b(c), this letter transmits the U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Inspector General's (OIG's) report of the requested data and information regarding cases related to the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program for FY 2019.

During FY 2019, OIG received one case referral relating to the SBIR program. However, based on the particular SBIR program detailed, the referral was sent by the OIG to the appropriate investigative agency for resolution. In addition, OIG participated in one joint investigation that was opened before FY 2019; it has been declined for criminal prosecution due to a lack of evidence and is pending closure.

OIG did not close any cases without action during FY 2019 in which fraud, waste, or abuse was "determined to have occurred" regarding an SBIR program investigation. OIG's estimated FY 2019 expenditures involving SBIR program investigations was \$543.05, and no funds were recovered or saved as a result of OIG's SBIR-related activities.

If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact me at (202) 482-4661 or Scott Kieffer, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, at (202) 482-7978.

Sincerely,


Peggy E. Gustafson
Inspector General