



April 9, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR: Laurie E. Locascio
Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and
Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology

Alan Davidson
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and
Information and National Telecommunications and Information
Administration Administrator

Richard W. Spinrad, Ph.D.
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Administrator

Alejandra Y. Castillo
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development
Economic Development Administration

FROM: Richard Bachman
Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

SUBJECT: Status Report on the Department of Commerce's CHIPS Act
Programs (#2024-487)

We are initiating an evaluation of the Department of Commerce's Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) Act programs. Our objective is to evaluate the current status of the CHIPS Act programs administered by the Department of Commerce.

We plan to begin work immediately. We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference, at which time we will discuss in further detail the specific nature of our evaluation—including our objective and scope, time frames, and any potential requests for data. We have copied key stakeholders for the project on this memorandum. If you have any questions about this evaluation, please contact me at (202) 793-3344 or Cusetta Parran, Semiconductor Division Director, at (202) 763-6912.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation during this effort.

cc: Michael Schmidt, Director of the CHIPS Program Office, NIST
Lora Weiss, Director of the CHIPS Research and Development Office, NIST
G. Nagesh Rao, Acting Director and Deputy Director of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, NIST
Mike Molnar, Director of the Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office, NIST
Amanda Toman, Director of the Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund, NTIA
Dwight Gledhill, Deputy Director of the Ocean Acidification Program, NOAA
Eric Smith, Tech Hubs Director, EDA
Scott Andes, Recompete Director, EDA