



# governmentattic.org

*"Rummaging in the government's attic"*

Description of document: Department of Commerce Inspector General (OIG)  
response to a Congressional request for "agency"-specific  
information on climate change, 2013

Requested date: 03-August-2013

Released date: 04-September-2013

Posted date: 23-September-2013

Source of document: FOIA Officer  
Office of Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 7892  
Washington, DC 20230  
Fax: 202.501.7335  
Email: [FOIA@oig.doc.gov](mailto:FOIA@oig.doc.gov)  
[Online FOIA Request Form](#)

The governmentattic.org web site ("the site") is noncommercial and free to the public. The site and materials made available on the site, such as this file, are for reference only. The governmentattic.org web site and its principals have made every effort to make this information as complete and as accurate as possible, however, there may be mistakes and omissions, both typographical and in content. The governmentattic.org web site and its principals shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damage caused, or alleged to have been caused, directly or indirectly, by the information provided on the governmentattic.org web site or in this file. The public records published on the site were obtained from government agencies using proper legal channels. Each document is identified as to the source. Any concerns about the contents of the site should be directed to the agency originating the document in question. GovernmentAttic.org is not responsible for the contents of documents published on the website.



September 4, 2013

This letter is a final response to your Freedom of Information Act request (FOIA) under OIG-2013-001366 in which you requested:

"a copy of documents and/or any other response provided to the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change in response to their February 25, 2013 letter request to [OIG's] office signed by Co-Chairs Henry A. Waxman and Sheldon Whitehouse, Edward J. Markey and Benjamin L. Cardin."

We conducted a records search within the Office of Inspector General (OIG) program offices and located the following responsive document: "Letter to Reps. Waxman/Markey/Carden re: Commerce climate change activities." You can locate it on OIG's website at <http://www.oig.doc.gov/OIGPublications/OIG-13-021-M.pdf>. Currently, no other response has been provided to the Bicameral Task Force by Commerce OIG. Due to the minimal search time and duplication charges, we are not charging you for our response to your request.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, please contact me via [FOIA@oig.doc.gov](mailto:FOIA@oig.doc.gov) or per U.S. Postal Service at Department of Commerce OIG, Room 7099, ATTN: FOIA, 1401 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura F. Bell".

Laura F. Bell  
FOIA/Records Specialist



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.

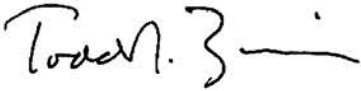
We will then address the second part of your request, which asked us to assess (1) Commerce's authorities to reduce emissions of heat-trapping pollution, (2) its authorities to make the nation more resilient to the effects of climate change, and (3) the most effective additional steps that could be taken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