



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

APR 15 2019

The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cory A. Booker
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators,

This is in response to your letter of April 3, 2019. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the Department of the Interior has received seven complaints, including yours, from a wide assortment of complainants alleging various potential conflict of interest and other violations by then-Deputy Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt.

We have reviewed the information you provided, as well as other information readily available to us. We are continuing to gather pertinent information about the complaints and have opened an investigation to address them. We will conduct our review as expeditiously and thoroughly as practicable.

Nancy DiPaolo, Director of External Affairs, will notify you when our review is completed.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Kendall
Deputy Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Chuck Schumer