

TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA,
CHAIRMAN

CHRISTOPHER BHAYS, CONNECTICUT
DAN BURTON, INDIANA
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA
JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
GIL GUTENCHT, MINNESOTA
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA
STEVEN C. LATOUCHE, OHIO
TODD RUSSELL PLATT, PENNSYLVANIA
CHRIS CANNON, UTAH
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE
CANDICE MILLER, MICHIGAN
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
DARRIN ISSA, CALIFORNIA
VIRGINIA BROWN-WHITE, FLORIDA
JON C. PORTER, NEVADA
KENNY MARCHANT, TEXAS
LYNN A. WESTMORELAND, GEORGIA
PATRICK T. McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLES W. DEHT, PENNSYLVANIA
VIRGINIA FOXX, NORTH CAROLINA

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-8143

MAJORITY (202) 225-6074
FACSIMILE (202) 225-8974
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
TTY (202) 225-8832

<http://reform.house.gov>

September 15, 2005

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA
MALCOLM R. OWENS, NEW YORK
EDLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI
DIANE L. WATSON, CALIFORNIA
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND
LINDA T. SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER,
MARYLAND
DRIAN HIGGINS, NEW YORK
ELLENOR HOLMES NORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT,
INDEPENDENT

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Naval Security Station
Washington, D.C. 20393

The Honorable Richard L. Skinner
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Naval Security Station
Washington, D.C. 20393

Dear Secretary Chertoff and Inspector General Skinner:

As Chairmen of the Committee on Government Reform and the Committee's Subcommittee on Financial Management, respectively, we want to make certain that the funds appropriated for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts are spent properly and effectively. Congress has already appropriated more than \$60 billion for the immediate relief effort, and this amount is, no doubt, only the beginning. These funds must be spent in a way that ensures that the people in the affected areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama are able to recover from the terrible effects of Katrina.

The emergency circumstances, however, also provide an opportunity for fraud and mismanagement that would deprive the affected people of the full benefit of the funds to be spent on the recovery. The inspectors general have long stood as a bulwark against such fraud and mismanagement.

As part of the Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (H.R. 3673) passed last week, Congress provided \$15,000,000 to the Office of the Inspector General at the Department of Homeland Security to increase its auditing and investigative capabilities.

In this light, coordination of the work of inspectors general will be critical. While the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") has the greatest responsibilities for the funds currently appropriated, other departments and agencies are and will be involved in

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
The Honorable Richard L. Skinner
September 15, 2005
Page 2

the recovery, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to name a few.

It is our understanding that the DHS Office of Inspector General recently established a special inspectors general working group for homeland security that includes the participation of many of the major agencies to be involved in the recovery effort. Accordingly, we ask that you utilize this pre-established working group to assist in the coordination of Federal inspectors general on the expenditure of Katrina relief funds.

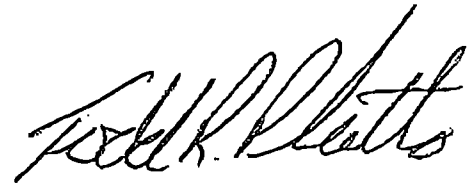
It is important that such coordination begin as quickly as possible, and we hope you will be willing to take on this responsibility immediately. Therefore, we ask that you submit to the Committee by September 20, 2005, a plan to coordinate the work of the inspectors general. That report should also inform the Committee whether you believe that additional resources or authority are necessary to allow appropriate coordination.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tom Davis
Chairman



Todd R. Platts
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial
Management