



Denali Commission
Office of Inspector General
Anchorage, AK 99501

November 17, 2015

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman, Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate

Dear Chairmen Johnson and Grassley and Ranking Members Carper and Leahy,

In response to your request of February 27, 2015, we are providing current information on our office's open and unimplemented recommendations. Since we last reported on March 11, 2015, I was named Inspector General for the Denali Commission on July 28, 2015. In addition, the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General (OIG) renewed the agreement with the Denali Commission on October 1, 2015, to provide a full range of inspector general (IG) services for the next five years. Our answers to your request are numbered below in accordance with the numbering on your request.

1. We identified two open and unimplemented recommendations that were initially made to the Commission on May 15, 2015 regarding improper payment reporting (see enclosure 1). Commission management agreed with the recommendations and is working to develop an action plan detailing how they plan to implement the recommendations. There are no cost savings associated with the open recommendations.
2. There are no audits, evaluations, or investigations provided to the Commission for comment but not responded to within 60 days.
3. There are no investigations involving GS-15 level or above staff.
4. There are no reported instances of whistleblower retaliation.
5. There are no instances of Commission staff attempts to interfere with IG independence.
6. There are no instances of Commissioners or Commission staff resisting or objecting in a significant manner to Denali OIG oversight. There are no instances where the agency refused to provide, or otherwise delayed or restricted my office's access to, records or other information.
7. Lastly, there are no closed investigations, evaluations, or audits that were not disclosed to the public since we last reported on March 11, 2015.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (206) 220-7970.

Sincerely,



David Sheppard
Inspector General, Denali Commission

Enclosure

cc: David Smith, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce
Joel Niemeyer, Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission

**Enclosure 1. Denali Commission OIG's Open and Unimplemented
Recommendations as of November 6, 2015**

Report	Report Date	Unimplemented Recommendation (According to Prior Inspector General)
Improper Payment Estimates Reported Appear Accurate, but Improvement Is Needed in the Risk Assessment Process.	May 15, 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Denali Commission should perform a risk assessment prior to completing its FY 2017 agency financial report.2. Denali Commission should add assessment areas to include (a) payments to employees and (b) grant payments made for eligible services, thus assuring consideration of all of OMB's required risk factors.