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February 29, 2012

The Hon. Mary Kendall
Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW - Mail Stop 4428
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Kendall,

I recently wrote to Rep. Doc Hastings, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, to request a hearing to determine whether a Department of the Interior (DOI) employee named Indur Goklany accepted outside payment for work in violation of DOI conflict of interest rules. I recently learned through the media that Rep. Hastings has decided not to pursue this matter.

American taxpayers deserve to know whether public servants are acting in their best interest. I write to request a full review of Dr. Goklany's relationship with the Heartland Institute – a group whose recently publicized 2012 budget lists him as receiving \$1,000 a month to write a chapter in a book designed to influence government climate policy – and an assessment of whether DOI conflict of interest standards adequately prevent the appearance of outside entities influencing employee decisions. Your assistance in this matter would be of great and timely value in re-establishing public trust in DOI's objectivity.

As I wrote to Rep. Hastings, we do not know whether Dr. Goklany received the money he was apparently promised by the Heartland Institute. Nor do we know whether other Interior Department employees have been offered, or accepted, similar arrangements with other organizations that seek to influence federal policy. For that matter, we do not know what confidential information Dr. Goklany may have shared with Heartland officials as he negotiated his payment agreements. I respectfully request that your review seek answers to these questions.

Public confidence in federal science decisions rightly depends on the perception that those decisions were not made with financial considerations in mind. Dr. Goklany's appearance in Heartland's budget – especially considering his prominent role as a one-time U.S. representative to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – needs to be explained if that confidence is going to be maintained.

Very sincerely,

Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands