



February 23, 2021

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

In accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 638b(c), this letter transmits the U.S. Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General's (OIG's) report of the requested data and information regarding cases related to the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program for fiscal year (FY) 2020.

During FY 2020, OIG did not receive any complaints relating to the SBIR program. A multi-agency SBIR investigation (i.e., OIG investigation 15-0419) that was initiated in 2015 was closed in FY 2020, and did not find credible evidence to substantiate that the subjects conducted any criminal activity in the performance of the two awarded SBIR contracts; however, restitution and debarment were being pursued by the U.S. Department of Justice and other federal agencies for violations connected to their specific offices. Additionally, one OIG hotline complaint received in FY 2019 was closed in FY 2020 due to lack of investigative merit.

OIG did not close any cases during FY 2020 in which fraud, waste, or abuse was "determined to have occurred" regarding an SBIR program investigation. OIG's estimated FY 2020 expenditures involving SBIR program investigations was \$3,827.84; no funds were recovered or saved as a result OIG's SBIR-related activities.

If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact me at (202) 482-4661 or Scott Kieffer, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, at (202) 482-7978.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy E. Gustafson".

Peggy E. Gustafson
Inspector General