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RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

JASON STEINBAUM
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

One Hundred Thirteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

February 26, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the authorizing committee with primary jurisdiction over the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), we are writing to urge you to nominate a qualified permanent Inspector General as soon as possible to oversee this agency's affairs.

Qualified, independent Inspectors General play an indispensable role in maintaining the efficacy of agencies by minimizing waste, fraud, and abuse. Unfortunately, USAID has not had a permanent Inspector General for more than three years, since October 15, 2011. That gap of more than 1,200 days is the second-longest vacancy of any of the 73 Inspector General positions across the federal government.

The United States faces critical challenges overseas, not the least of which is executing key national security programs in dangerous environments such as Iraq and Afghanistan. For USAID to maximize the impact of its development assistance, it must ensure that precious taxpayer resources are protected from waste, fraud, and abuse. Having an independent and capable "top cop on the beat" is vital to this effort.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you nominate a suitable candidate for this critical position without delay. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Edward R. Royce in blue ink.

EDWARD R. ROYCE
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Eliot L. Engel in blue ink.

ELIOT L. ENGEL
Ranking Member