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One Hundred Thirteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
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February 4, 2013

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, we congratulate you again on your confirmation as our nation's 68th Secretary of State. We wish you success in confronting the world's most pressing challenges, and look forward to a close and constructive working relationship.

As you begin your tenure, we would like to raise an issue essential to the proper functioning of the Department of State. For more than five years, since January 16, 2008, the Department has lacked a presidentially-nominated, Senate-confirmed Inspector General. That gap of more than 1,840 days is the longest vacancy of any of the 73 Inspector General positions across the federal government. While this would be problematic under any circumstances, the repeated criticisms of the independence and effectiveness of that office by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) heighten the need for an appointment.¹

As you well know, qualified, independent Inspectors General play an indispensable role in maintaining the efficacy of those agencies, by minimizing waste, fraud, and abuse. At a time of grave fiscal challenges, all of us owe a duty to American taxpayers to ensure that their hard-earned dollars are spent properly, and Inspectors General are an integral part of that commitment. We therefore respectfully request that you urge the President to nominate a

¹ See, e.g., Government Accountability Office, *State Department Inspector General: Actions to Address Independence and Effectiveness Concerns Are under Way* (April 5, 2011), available at <http://www.gao.gov/assets/130/125878.pdf>.

The Honorable John F. Kerry

February 4, 2013

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permanent Inspector General for the Department of State as soon as possible, and appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Edward R. Royce in blue ink.

EDWARD R. ROYCE
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Eliot Engel in blue ink.

ELIOT ENGEL
Ranking Member