



U. S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration

www.dea.gov

November 7, 2014

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
The Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

This responds to your letter to Administrator Michele Leonhart dated August 7, 2014, regarding a recent report by Amtrak's Office of Inspector General (Amtrak OIG) that an Amtrak employee received payments from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for Confidential Passenger Name Reservation Identification. We appreciate your concerns regarding this subject.

Although it would not be appropriate to talk about this particular case at the present time given the pending investigations described below, in certain circumstances, DEA pays Confidential Sources (CS) for information which furthers ongoing investigations or provides insight into criminal activities that is otherwise unavailable. Such CS information may include reports of suspicious activities, suspected smuggling or other movement of substances, reports regarding the actions of individuals or groups of individuals, or other information which is of interest to law enforcement but not accessible through other sources. For example, CSs provide information to DEA regarding criminal activities to aid in its enforcement of U.S. controlled substance laws and regulations, and investigations of those involved in the growth, manufacture, or distribution of controlled substances.

As you may be aware, in February 2014, the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General (DOJ-OIG) began an examination of how DEA uses CSs. We understand that the examination covers DEA's management and oversight of its Confidential Source Program, including compliance with rules and regulations associated with the use of confidential sources, and oversight of payments to CSs. Recently, the DOJ-OIG confirmed that it is conducting an investigation of alleged payments for information by Drug Enforcement Administration personnel to an Amtrak employee. DEA is cooperating fully with these reviews, and we look forward to the Inspector General's findings.

DEA takes your concerns, as well as the concerns raised by the Amtrak OIG report, seriously. We hope that this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Akers".

Eric J. Akers, Deputy Chief
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs