Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Homeland Security

August 2, 2010

The Honorable Russell D. Feingold
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feingold:

Thank you for your letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding the respective and appropriate roles of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and issues relating to corruption charges and investigations against CBP employees. I want to assure you that Commissioner Alan Bersin, Inspector General Richard Skinner, and I fully understand the threat that employee corruption presents and the need for strong integrity policies.

In order for the Department to fulfill its role in securing the homeland against threats, each of our Components must work in a collaborative manner to foster effective information sharing. DHS's work to combat threats to our security can only succeed if our Components collaborate internally and with the other Federal agencies engaged in this critical work.

I am aware of the existing issues raised by OIG and CBP, including the role CBP should play in investigations of allegations of corruption by CBP employees. We are engaged in a thorough review of the issues raised by OIG, the relevant authorities, and a long-term solution to ensure that we root out corruption and effectively prosecute those who threaten our security.

We are also assessing our integrity policies to ensure they include adequate background and security checks on new CBP employees.

We will keep you abreast of efforts in this area. Identical responses have been sent to Senators Burris, Wyden, and Pryor, who co-signed your letter. Should you have any questions please contact me at (202) 282-8203.

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano