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Committee on Natural Resources
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May 17, 2013

The Honorable Kevin K. Washburn
Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Washburn:

On August 10, 2012, the Office of the Inspector General ("OIG") for the U.S. Department of the Interior ("Department") issued a Report of Investigation ("Report") entitled "Jeanette Hanna et al." The Report outlined a series of concerns and allegations against former Bureau of Indian Affairs ("BIA") Regional Director Jeanette Hanna, who has been reassigned, initially only on a temporary detail basis, to BIA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Report focused on the apparent mismanagement surrounding Ms. Hanna's extended detail, including allegations that Ms. Hanna spent more than $33,000 of government funds on a hotel room in Washington, D.C. while she was physically in Oklahoma. This was only part of the $178,000 that was spent on expenses associated with a detail that lasted nearly two years.

The Report also discloses that there were 17 separate formal complaints against Ms. Hanna that were investigated by the OIG between 2005 and 2011, many of which were referred to the previous Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs ("AS-IA") and BIA management. The Report does not indicate that any action was ever taken in response. The Report also refers to separate personnel and civil rights investigations involving Ms. Hanna that were being handled first by BIA and AS-IA management and then ultimately Department management because of potential conflicts of interest.

The importance of carrying out the Department's trust responsibilities regarding the management of tribal and individual Indian trust lands and assets cannot be overstated. One of the many allegations against Ms. Hanna is that she misused federal funds, as well as abused her authority, steered contracts, and created a hostile work environment. Because of the seriousness of the accusations, it is important to fully understand what steps were taken as a result of the

2010 Federal investigation and the 2012 OIG investigation, as well as how the AS-IA handles referrals from OIG in serious cases.

The Committee on Natural Resources has broad jurisdiction over the activities and operations of the Department of the Interior, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Because the office of the AS-IA received notice of the investigations, and because Ms. Hanna has worked in positions of fiduciary trust in this office, it is expected that this office would be in the best position to provide the necessary information to Congress on this issue. In order to obtain a better understanding of how the investigations into Ms. Hanna have been resolved, please respond by May 31, 2013 with the following information:

1. How many OIG investigations (of all types) were referred to your office between 2009 and the present?

2. Please provide a summary of how BIA responded to each of the OIG referrals mentioned above in question 1.

3. Please provide an unredacted copy of the June 2010 report about Ms. Hanna provided to the AS-IA's Office of Human Capital Management, and any documentation that was attached to or accompanied the report.

4. Please describe what action was taken in response to the June 2010 investigation of Ms. Hanna, as well as all promotions, job changes, raises, salary changes, bonuses, or awards were given to Ms. Hanna between 2009 and the present.

5. What actions were taken by the AS-IA in response to the August 2012 OIG report? Please provide the current employment status of Ms. Hanna.

Enclosed with this letter are instructions and definitions for responding to this request. Please have your staff contact Machalagh Carr at 225-2761 in the Office of Oversight and Investigations with any questions.

Sincerely,

Doc Hastings
Chairman

Responding to Committee Document Requests

A. Definitions

1. The term "document" means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, recorded notes, letters, notices, confirmations, receipts, checks, envelopes, presentations, pamphlets, brochures, interoffice and intra office communications, electronic mails (e-mails), instant message, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, voice mail, phone mail, meeting or other communication, diaries, analyses, summaries, messages, correspondence, circulars, opinions, work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind, and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape, or otherwise.

2. The term "communication" means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether face-to-face, in a meeting, by telephone, mail, e-mail, discussions, releases, personal delivery, or otherwise.

3. The terms "and" and "or" shall be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this document request. The singular includes the plural. The masculine includes the feminine.

4. As used herein, "referring" or "relating" means and includes "constituting," "pertaining," "evidencing," "reflecting," "describing," or "having anything to do with," and in each instance, directly or indirectly. These terms mean, without limitation, any reference or relationship which either (a) provides information with respect to the subject of the inquiry, or (b) might lead to individuals who, or documents which, might possess or contain information with respect to the subject of the inquiry.

B. Instructions

1. In complying with this document request, you are required to produce all responsive documents, materials, or items that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, representatives, subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, partnerships, and departments acting on your behalf. You are also required to produce documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy or to which you have access, as well as documents that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party. No records, documents, date or information called for by this request shall be destroyed, modified, removed, transferred or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee.

2. In the event that any entity, organization, or individual denoted in this document request has been, or is also known by any other name than that herein denoted, the document request shall be read also to include them under that alternative identification.

3. Each document produced shall be produced in a form that renders that document capable of being printed or copied.

4. Documents produced in response to this document request shall be produced together with copies of file labels, dividers, envelopes, or identifying markers with which they were associated when this document request was served. Documents produced to this document request shall also identify to which paragraph from the document request such documents are responsive. Moreover, please include with your response, an index identifying each record and label (preferably by bates stamping) the documents. The Committee prefers, if possible, to receive all documents in electronic format.

5. It shall not be a basis for refusal to produce documents that any other person or entity also possesses documents that are non-identical or identical copies of the same document.

6. If any of the requested information is available in machine-readable or electronic form (such as on a computer server, hard drive, CD, DVD, memory stick, or computer back-up tape), state the form in which it is available and provide sufficient detail to allow the information to be copied to a readable format. If the information requested is stored in a computer, indicate whether you have an existing program that will print the records in a readable form.

7. If compliance with the document request cannot be made in full, compliance shall be made to the extent possible and shall include a written explanation of why full compliance is not possible.

8. In the event that a document is withheld, in whole or in part, based on a claim of privilege, provide the following information concerning any such document: (a) the privilege asserted; (b) the type of document; (c) the general subject matter of the document; (d) the date, author, and any recipients; and (e) the relationship of the author and recipients to each other. Claims of privileges are considered under Committee on Natural Resources Rule 4(h) and, similar to all common-law privileges, are recognized only at the discretion of the Committee.

9. If any document responsive to this document request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody, or control, identify the document (stating its date, author, subject and recipients) and explain the circumstances by which the document ceased to be in your possession, custody, or control.

10. If a date or other descriptive detail set forth in this document request referring to a document is inaccurate, but the actual date or other descriptive detail is known to you or

is otherwise apparent from the context of the request, you should produce all documents which would be responsive as if the date or other descriptive detail were correct.

11. This request is continuing in nature and applies to any newly-discovered information. Any record, document, compilation of data or information, not produced because it has not been located or discovered by the return date, shall be produced immediately upon location or discovery subsequent thereto.

12. Production materials should be delivered to:

    Committee on Natural Resources
    U.S. House of Representatives
    1324 Longworth House Office Building
    Washington D.C. 20515