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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

October 5, 2011

Mr. Paul K. Martin
Inspector General
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20546

Dear Mr. Martin,

At a House Science, Space, and Technology hearing on July 12th with NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, I requested copies of two independent assessments of NASA's management, morale, and trust in its organizational leadership conducted for Administrator Bolden on behalf of 4-D Systems and McKinsey. I finally received these reports on September 22nd.

While NASA refused to provide the specific inputs from NASA's senior career civil servant managers to the 4-D Systems survey, the executive summary provided some disturbing insights about a dysfunctional and hostile work environment created by Obama Administration political appointees toward NASA's career civil servants, including two themes:

- "'Politicos' focus on Democratic political goals, not national goals"
- "Little trust (3x) from above or discussion on major Agency issues. Two groups, political and career that communicate to themselves"

NASA is one of the best agencies in the Federal government and respected throughout the world, so NASA's dedicated senior career managers deserve a professional work environment. Such technical agencies as NASA need to work freely of political ideology to the greatest extent practical, not "focus on Democratic political goals."

In providing these executive summaries, Seth Statler, an Obama Administration political appointee in charge NASA's Office of Legislative Affairs, chose not to provide the agency's Congressional oversight committee with the specific inputs from NASA's senior career civil servant managers which contributed to the 4-D Systems' assessment. Therefore, I ask that your office conduct an investigation about specific allegations surfaced in this study, or subsequent to this study, to see if any improper decisions or efforts have been taken to steer agency funding and contracts, circumvent the civil

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service hiring process, or fraud, waste, abuse or other mismanagement of agency resources to benefit "Democratic political goals." This investigation should focus primarily on any potentially illegal acts, but also any mismanagement of agency resources and personnel.

Your investigation should be delegated to a senior career investigator on your staff who may act independently without any interference from Obama Administration political appointees. I recommend the investigation start by interviewing the current and former NASA senior managers interviewed for the 4-D Systems report. I ask that your office provide a final or preliminary report on any findings to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology within four months of receiving this letter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Lamar Smith

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

cc: NASA Administrator Charles Bolden