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Office of the Inspector General

United States Government Accountability Office

June 17, 2013

Mr. Allan Blutstein  
Cause of Action  
1919 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Suite 650  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Blutstein:

This letter is in response to your May 30, 2013 request for a copy of the GAO Inspector General's response to the August 23, 2010 correspondence from Senator Charles Grassley and Chairman Darrell Issa. The August 2010 congressional correspondence asked the Inspectors General of 29 agencies to review whether political appointees were made aware of Freedom of Information Act requests and played decision-making roles in the processing of such requests.

Your letter was submitted to GAO as a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). While GAO is not subject to FOIA, GAO's disclosure policy follows the spirit of the act, consistent with its duties, functions, and responsibilities to the Congress. We have processed your request under the procedures set forth in 4 C.F.R. Part 81, Public Availability of Government Accountability Office Records.

GAO's regulation governing the release of agency records provides, *inter alia*, that "records relating to work performed in response to a congressional request (unless authorized by the congressional requester)," are exempt from disclosure. 4 C.F.R. Part 81.6(a). We have been instructed by a congressional requester not to release the GAO IG response letter at this time. Accordingly, pursuant to 4 C.F.R. 81.6(a), we are not authorized to release the requested document.

Further consideration of your request may be obtained by an appeal letter to the Inspector General, Adam R. Trzeciak, setting forth the basis for your appeal.

Sincerely,

Cynthia A. Hogue  
Counsel to Inspector General