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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <https://commerce.senate.gov>

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

I am investigating possible misconduct in the Investigations and Threat Management Service (ITMS) at the Department of Commerce. A variety of allegations have been raised by more than a dozen whistleblowers, citing specific activities that occurred as early as 2005.

Although the investigation is ongoing, the evidence strongly suggests that the ITMS has suffered from chronic mismanagement, including abuses of authority that appear to be part of a longstanding and unaddressed pattern. It seems clear that ITMS lacks the law enforcement authority required to conduct criminal and counterintelligence investigations. If this is the case, it would necessitate a thorough probe of its past and present activities, as well as a probe of any possible actions taken by the Department. In addition, the evidence indicates a troubling trend that individuals of Asian descent may have been disproportionately targeted and investigated by ITMS.

This situation existed long before you became Secretary, and I greatly appreciate the commitment you provided in our conversations to implement reforms in the Department of Commerce where needed. This is one of those areas. I request your cooperation in completing this important oversight investigation by providing access to additional documents and witnesses if those needs arise. I appreciate your prompt and urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
Ranking Member
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee