



January 14, 2014

Dr. William F. Pepper  
wfpintlaxford@aol.com

Dear Mr. Pepper:

The Department of Commerce (DOC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) has received your correspondence and reviewed the information you provided. We have assigned complaint number 14-0192.

After careful consideration, we decided upon the following course of action:

- Further evaluate the information and allegation(s) you provided. An investigator will be contacting you to obtain further information and clarify your allegation(s).
- Refer your allegation(s) to management officials of the affected DOC component. Your allegation has been forwarded to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
- Refer your allegation(s) to an agency outside of DOC. Your allegation(s) was referred to \_\_\_\_\_. A representative of that agency may contact you for further information.
- No further action will be taken at this time.

OIG has designated a Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman to educate Department of Commerce employees about prohibitions on retaliation for protected disclosures, as well as the rights and remedies against retaliation for protected disclosures for those who have made or are contemplating making a protected disclosure. In addition, certain employees of agency contractors or grantees may also be protected from reprisal. Employees may contact the Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman with any questions or concerns at 202-482-1099 or at [oigwpo@oig.doc.gov](mailto:oigwpo@oig.doc.gov). Please note that the Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman is not permitted to act as a legal representative, agent, or advocate for current or former employees.

If you have any questions or further information, please contact us at (800) 424-5197 and reference the pin number assigned when you initiated the complaint.

Thank you.

Complaint Inquiry and Analysis Staff  
Office of Investigations

