



**OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

AUG 03 2017

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressmen Pallone and Grijalva,

This is in response to your letter of July 27, 2017, in which you express concern about phone calls made by Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary Zinke to Senators Murkowski and Sullivan, both of Alaska, regarding their votes on health care proposals pending before Congress.

You requested that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for DOI investigate this matter and address a number of potential legal and ethical violations.

The OIG is undertaking a preliminary investigation into this matter. We will advise you about what further action the results of this inquiry lead the OIG to take.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 208-5745, or your staff may contact Nancy DiPaolo, Director of External Affairs at (202) 208-4357.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary L. Kendall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "K".

Mary L. Kendall
Deputy Inspector General