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March 4, 1999

Charles C. Masten
Office of the Inspector General
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Mr. Masten:

During 1996, your office began a review of the circumstances under which three principals of Meridian Research Incorporated (MRI) came to be employees of the Department of Labor. The principals involved were MRI's President Marte Kent, as well as its Vice President William Perry and its Secretary Treasurer Robert Burt.

This review was initiated because of concerns relating to OSHA's decision to hire Marte Kent, William Perry and Robert Burt in 1994 to fill three newly created high-level positions shortly after MRI settled a Departmental claim that it had improperly used as much as \$500,000 in OSHA funds. It is my understanding that OSHA had not previously hired three individuals from the same firm at such high levels, let alone hired senior officials who had been formally accused of misusing OSHA contract proceeds.

Please advise if this review has been concluded. In that regard, I am hereby requesting the opportunity to review all records kept in the course of this review. I am further requesting copies of any and all other records maintained by your office with regard to MRI, Ms. Kent, Mr. Perry and Mr. Burt.

Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Christopher S. Bond
Chairman