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

27 June 2023

The Honorable Paul Gosar, D.D.S., Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gosar,

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify at the Subcommittee's hearing on June 7, 2023, "Examining Ongoing Cybersecurity Threats within the Department of the Interior and the Nexus to State-Sponsored Cyber Actors." Today, I am enclosing a response to the Questions for the Record directed to me after the hearing.

I look forward to a continued dialogue with you about our office's oversight of the Department of the Interior's bureaus and programs. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 202-208-5745, or your staff may contact Erica Paulson at 202-208-4357.

Sincerely,

Mark Lee Greenblatt
Inspector General

Enclosure

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Oversight Hearing
1324 Longworth House Office Building
June 7, 2023
2:00 pm

Oversight Hearing titled *"Examining Ongoing Cybersecurity Threats within the Department of the Interior and the Nexus to State Sponsored Cyber Actors"*

Questions from Rep. Paul Gosar for the Hon. Mark Greenblatt, Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC

1. Is anything stopping the Department of the Interior from allocating a greater percentage of its existing budget to cybersecurity initiatives?

The Department of the Interior (DOI) did not address budget issues in its response to our office's report (the DOI's response is included in the report as Appendix 2). The Office of Inspector General (OIG) also has not independently evaluated the DOI's budget. Given that we have not conducted oversight work in this area, we do not have a basis to make findings or draw conclusions about the Department's ability to allocate a greater percentage of its existing budget to cybersecurity initiatives.

2. How can DOI better prioritize cybersecurity initiatives with its existing budget?

Although we have not conducted specific work regarding the DOI's prioritization of cybersecurity initiatives within its existing budget, we have evaluated various aspects of DOI's IT environment, and 64 IT-related open recommendations have yet to be implemented. We have identified seven of these recommendations as "significant," including four from the passwords inspection report that was discussed at the hearing. Designation of a recommendation as "significant" considers a range of factors but, overall, is an indication that we have concluded that it is a particularly important issue to address. Beyond noting this designation, we do not have a basis to make findings or draw conclusions about how the DOI should make prioritization decisions within its current budget.