Date: November 17, 2026

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Former Inspectors General Opposition to the Nomination of Eric Matthew Ueland to be Comptroller General of the United States

Dear Chairman Paul and Ranking Member Peters:

As former federal Inspectors General who have dedicated our careers to independent, nonpartisan oversight of the federal government, we write to express our strong opposition to the nomination of Eric Matthew Ueland to serve as Comptroller General of the United States and head of the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Across administrations of both parties, our community has seen firsthand that the credibility of any oversight institution depends on two pillars: strict adherence to statutory safeguards designed to protect its independence, and leadership defined by proven, nonpartisan fidelity to objective evidence. Mr. Ueland's nomination fails on both counts.

1. Subversion of the Statutory Bipartisan Selection Process

Unlike executive-branch officials who serve at the pleasure of the President, the Comptroller General leads a legislative-branch agency—Congress's primary investigative and audit arm—for a single, non-renewable 15-year term spanning four presidential administrations. Recognizing the extraordinary reach of that tenure, Congress enacted the General Accounting Office Act of 1980 (31 U.S.C. § 703) to ensure that any nominee enjoys broad, bipartisan confidence. The statute establishes a 10-member bicameral, bipartisan congressional commission tasked with vetting candidates and recommending at least three qualified individuals to the President.

For nearly a year following former Comptroller General Gene Dodaro's retirement at the end of 2025, that commission failed to conduct a meaningful, bipartisan search—a stark departure from the deliberative, multi-month bipartisan vetting processes that produced

Comptrollers General Charles Bowsher, David Walker, and Gene Dodaro. Instead, during a post-election lame-duck session, after affording congressional minority leaders fewer than 24 hours to submit names, the administration and Senate leadership are attempting to rush through a sitting White House official just days after his formal nomination and weeks before a change in Senate control. Truncating a 15-year institutional appointment into a last-minute partisan exercise undermines the legitimacy of the office.

2. Irreconcilable Conflicts of Interest and Threat to GAO's Independence

GAO's constitutional and statutory mandate requires it to audit executive-branch spending without fear or favor, issue objective legal opinions on appropriations law, and enforce the Impoundment Control Act—including bringing civil enforcement actions against the executive branch when appropriated funds are unlawfully withheld.

Mr. Ueland currently serves as Deputy Director for Management at the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB)—the very agency whose spending freezes and impoundments GAO has repeatedly found unlawful over the past two years. Alongside his senior role under OMB Director Russell Vought, Mr. Ueland has concurrently served in acting leadership capacities overseeing the dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development and previously at the Office of Government Ethics, while publicly describing the continued reduction of the federal workforce as his "priority number one."

Installing OMB's second-ranking official to lead GAO creates an acute, irreconcilable conflict of interest. If confirmed, Mr. Ueland would immediately oversee ongoing GAO audits of the exact budget impoundments, workforce reductions, and agency restructurings he helped architect and defend, while holding unilateral authority over whether GAO enforces the Impoundment Control Act against his former White House colleagues. Even widespread recusals could not cure a conflict that reaches the core of GAO's docket, nor could they restore public and congressional trust that GAO's legal and audit findings are free from executive-branch influence.

3. Absence of Nonpartisan Audit and Watchdog Qualifications

Leading GAO's workforce of more than 3,000 auditors, evaluators, economists, and attorneys demands deep, demonstrated expertise in Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, financial management, program evaluation, and independent oversight leadership. While Mr. Ueland has extensive experience in partisan Senate floor strategy, legislative affairs, and executive-branch management, his career reflects political advocacy rather than nonpartisan audit or investigative stewardship. As the oversight community has repeatedly emphasized in recent confirmation debates, procedural fluency

and loyalty to an administration are no substitute for an established record of independent, evidence-based accountability.

For more than a century, GAO has earned the trust of Congress and the American people because its leaders stood apart from partisan politics. Confirming a sitting White House political official through a rushed, unilateral process would inflict lasting damage on one of Congress's most vital institutional checks. We respectfully urge the Committee to oppose Mr. Ueland's nomination, restore the bipartisan 31 U.S.C. § 703 commission process, and insist upon a consensus, career-caliber watchdog worthy of this critical office.

Sincerely,

Brett Baker
Former Inspector General, National Archives and Records Administration

Michael R. Bromwich
Former Inspector General, Department of Justice

David B. Buckley
Former Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency

Kathy A. Buller
Former Inspector General, Peace Corps

Eric R. Feldman
Former Inspector General, National Reconnaissance Office

Phyllis K. Fong
Former Inspector General, Department of Agriculture, Small Business Administration

Mark Greenblatt
Former Inspector General, Department of the Interior

Christi A. Grimm
Former Inspector General, Health and Human Services

Thomas Howard
Former Inspector General, Amtrak

Deborah Jeffrey
Former Inspector General, AmeriCorps, Securities and Exchange Commission

Allison Lerner
Former Inspector General, National Science Foundation

Paul Martin
Former Inspector General, US AID, NASA

Michael J, Missal
Former Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs

Thomas A. Monheim
Former Inspector General, Intelligence Community

David A. Montoya
Former Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development

Jenny Banner Rone
Former Acting Inspector General, Department of Agriculture

John Roth
Former Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security

Cynthia Schnedar
Former Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice

John F. Sopko
Former Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction

Eric Thorson
Former Inspector General, Small Business Administration, Treasury

Robert Westbrooks
Former Inspector General, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation