

September 18, 2018

U.S. Department of State  
Office of Inspector General  
P.O. Box 9778  
Arlington, Virginia 22219

**Re: Ethics Complaint Concerning Department of State Employees**

Inspector General Linick,

We write to your office today to inform you of Project Veritas's findings in an investigation into the State Department. Project Veritas is a national journalism organization dedicated to undercover reporting to expose corruption, fraud, waste, and abuse. In its most recent undercover project, it spoke with employees of the State Department to sort out how ethical staffers were in carrying out its mission.

In our investigation, we met Stuart Karaffa. He is a member of the Democratic Socialists of America ("DSA"). It describes itself as the "largest socialist organization in the United States." During this investigation, Project Veritas learned that many DSA members in the Washington, DC area are employed by the federal government and that the organization is taking organized action to thwart administration policies.

The investigation at hand revealed that Karaffa used government resources to promote DSA projects during government work hours. This appeared to be part of a larger "resistance" movement aimed at the current administration. This involved using government time to prepare press releases about issues the DSA promotes and doing so in covert, undetectable ways. We ask that you review the linked exposé for further confirmation. <https://www.projectveritas.com/2018/09/18/deep-state-unmasked-state-department-on-hidden-cam-resist-everything-i-have-nothing-to-lose/> .

Central to the mission of the Office of Inspector General is to eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse. While it proves difficult for government agencies to police themselves, the outside press is a potent ally. In Project Veritas's investigations, DSA agents employed by the federal government appear to be blocking and impeding the operations of federal agencies. If replicated in large numbers, this resistance effort could have serious implications for the ability of the federal government to function.

In summary, Project Veritas has collected initial evidence suggesting at least the following laws and regulations were violated by State Department employees:

- Outside engagements creating an appearance of impropriety. 5 CFR 2635.101(b)(14).
- Using government resources and time to promote personal and political causes. 5 CFR 2635.704.
- Violating the Hatch Act—engaging in partisan political duties during employment hours. 5 USC § 7323; 5 CFR 733 & 734, *et seq.*
- Outside engagements conflicting with official duties. 5 CFR 2635.802.

Project Veritas makes itself available to assist the Office of Inspector General in reviewing this matter. Please contact the undersigned for additional details.

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Respectfully,

*/s/ Benjamin Barr* \_\_\_\_\_

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