

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS



November 2, 2017

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
706 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
United States Senate  
511 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall  
United States Senate  
531 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate  
709 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senate  
330 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
524 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Blumenthal, Cantwell, Udall, Baldwin, Hassan, and Duckworth:

I am in receipt of your letter dated October 26, 2017, requesting information about whether the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) has taken specific actions with regard to the Secretary of Commerce in light of a recent *Forbes* report. Specifically, your letter refers to a *Forbes* report that suggests the potential failure to properly report assets on his nominee financial disclosure report.<sup>1</sup>

In response to this report, OGE has sought information from the Department of Commerce officials who are in the best position to ascertain the relevant facts and are responsible for monitoring their employees' compliance with financial disclosure requirements. OGE expects a response to its inquiry shortly and will provide you with that response once it is received. If you have any questions prior to that response, please contact OGE's Chief of Staff, Shelley K. Finlayson at 202-482-9314.

Sincerely,

David J. Apol  
Acting Director

Cc: David Maggi, Chief, Ethics Law and Programs Division  
Department of Commerce

<sup>1</sup> Dan Alexander, *The Mystery Of Wilbur Ross' Missing Billions*, *Forbes*, Oct. 16, 2017, available at <https://goo.gl/NZZBJW>.

