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August 4, 2020

Richard Delmar, Acting Inspector General
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

Re: Complaint of Colorado Misappropriation of Treasury Department Grant

Inspector General Delmar:

This Complaint is filed with the Treasury Office of Inspector General (OIG) pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978. This Complaint provides evidence of the misappropriation of Department of Treasury grant funds to the State of Colorado by former Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper.

Specifically, this Complaint provides evidence that Governor John Hickenlooper misappropriated Federal Tax Relief Act of 2003 funds, granted to the State of Colorado for 9/11 recovery programs, to retain a political attorney at a rate of \$525 per hour to defend him against a state ethics complaint that alleged personal misconduct. On June 5, 2020, the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission ruled that Governor John Hickenlooper violated the state's constitution by accepting gifts and benefits that exceeded the constitutional gifting limits.

The federal grant fund at issue, the Federal Tax Relief Act of 2003 ("Act"), explicitly prohibits Governor Hickenlooper's appropriation to pay for an attorney to defend him against state ethics violations. The Act expressly limits the use of the federal funding to: payments for "essential government services"; or payments for "federal intergovernmental mandate"; and the payment must be authorized by the state budget. None of these conditions remotely apply and Governor Hickenlooper's use of federal taxpayer funds to pay his \$525 per hour political attorney represent a gross misappropriation of federal taxpayer funds.

This Complaint requests you address these highly publicized questions of whether Hickenlooper's expenditures of restricted federal 9/11 recovery funds are prohibited by the Act; and whether Hickenlooper's illegal and improper use of mixing federal grant funds with political campaign resources violates restrictions on federal grant funding.

Sincerely,

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

Enclosure