

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2026

The Honorable Douglas J. Burgum
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC, 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum,

We write to follow up on our previous inquiry regarding workforce actions at the Department of the Interior (Department). We have recently been made aware of additional plans to relocate federal employees of the Business Integration Office (BIO) out of their current office in Reston, Virginia, to the Department's Washington, D.C. headquarters. This relocation would significantly harm productivity at the BIO and force dedicated federal employees out of their jobs.

We wrote to you on June 2, 2026, raising concerns about the Department's plans to relocate 600 employees of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) out of their Reston, Virginia headquarters to the Department's headquarters in D.C. To date, we have not received a response. Now, we have learned that in July 2026, the Department notified 17 BIO employees that their jobs would be relocated out of the very same building to Washington, D.C. effective August 2026. Apparently, the goal of this relocation is to improve building utilization at the Department's D.C. building.

Federal employees at the BIO maintain the Department's Financial and Business Management System (FBMS). Their work is vital to the functioning of the Department's budgeting, acquisitions, property management, and grantmaking systems. In the course of their duties, BIO staff work closely with multiple government contractors who are located nearby the BIO's Reston office, promoting easy collaboration between the teams. Additionally, only 17 individuals at BIO are being relocated, which will make no meaningful impact on the building's utilization.

While not helping building use, relocating BIO staff will have significant negative impacts on agency productivity, as staff will no longer be able to easily collaborate with their partner contractors. The move will also result in further attrition to an agency that has already lost over one third of its staff under the current Administration, as many federal employees will likely choose to resign rather than navigate a more costly and time-consuming commute and degraded working conditions. This, and the disruptions that will come with uprooting an entire office, put the BIO's ability to carry out their mission in serious jeopardy.

As Members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, we have a duty to ensure that federal agency relocations are beneficial to the agency's productivity and a responsible use of taxpayer dollars. We therefore request answers to the following questions, as well as the questions from our June 2, 2026, letter:

1. Please provide responses to these questions regarding the planned relocation of BIO employees:

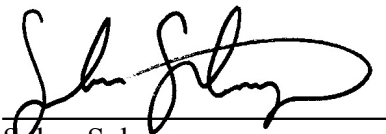
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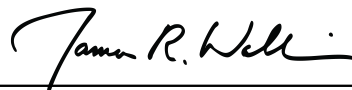
- a. What is the exact timeline of the relocation?
 - b. How does the Department plan to accommodate BIO staff at the Udall building in D.C.? Is there adequate space for them?
 - c. What is the justification for the relocation, especially considering the minimal impact on building utilization in D.C.?
2. Before deciding to relocate BIO employees, did Department leadership engage with employees to address their concerns? If so, please provide details on how their concerns were addressed.
3. Did the Department conduct any assessments into the cumulative impact of workforce reductions, relocations, and workspace consolidation on BIO's ability to fulfill its core mission functions? If so, please provide those assessments. If not, please explain how the Department intends to ensure that these actions do not compromise the BIO's work.
4. Does the Department have plans to relocate additional employees besides those at USGS and BIO? If so, please provide detailed descriptions of those plans.

We request responses by no later than August 21, 2026. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress