



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

July 28, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

It may just be a game, but when the whistle blows, play stops. The rules matter; they make a difference. When the flag is thrown, the red card is raised, or the strikes are called, we can trust that the game is being played fair and square.

The terms “blowing the whistle” and “whistleblowing” have long histories beyond the world of sports. They recall how, more than a century ago, law enforcement began using whistles to alert the public to the commission of crime and potential danger. And, although the literal meaning of those terms did not broaden to encompass those who expose waste, fraud, and abuse in government programs and operations until the mid-1970s, Congress certainly understood the significance of the whistleblowing concept for far longer. In fact, it was more than two centuries ago that Congress passed the first whistleblower protection law on July 30, 1778. Congress continues to recognize the importance of whistleblowing through the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012, and the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017, which provide protection against retaliation for federal employees who engage in protected whistleblowing activities.

This Saturday, July 30, is National Whistleblower Appreciation Day. My commitment to whistleblower rights and to ensuring a safe and productive work environment for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board employees is unwavering. Resources for employees who wish to make a protected disclosure or who believe they may have been retaliated against for engaging in protected whistleblowing activities may be found [on the OIG's Whistleblower Protection site](#). To make a complaint, please visit our [EPA OIG Hotline site](#), send an email to OIG_Hotline@epa.gov, or call us at (888) 546-8740.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean W. O'Donnell".

Sean W. O'Donnell
Inspector General