

CHAIRMAN



UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20436

September 13, 2016

Policy Statement on Whistleblowing

In 2002, the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act (No FEAR Act) was enacted to make all federal agencies accountable for violations of antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws. The Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 protects individuals who report federal agency misconduct. The U.S. International Trade Commission will protect any employee, former employee, and job applicant from interference and retaliation when making a protected disclosure, or "whistleblowing," which includes providing information related to: a violation of law, rule, or regulation; gross mismanagement; gross waste of funds; an abuse of authority; or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety. The Commission will initiate appropriate actions against responsible persons who take, threaten to take, or fail to take a personnel action with respect to any employee or applicant because of any protected disclosure of information.

The Commission will not tolerate reprisal against whistleblowers. Legitimate disclosure of information by employees is an invaluable resource for the oversight of government operations. Therefore, it is my expectation that employees are able to report these matters confidentially to the Commission's Office of Inspector General, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, or appropriate management officials. Allegations of interference with or retaliation against any current or former employee or job applicant making a protected disclosure will be investigated promptly, and, where allegations are substantiated, appropriate action will be taken.

I will ensure the Commission's role as a federal agency is one that respects the rights of its employees, former employees, and job applicants who raise legitimate concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Irving A. Williamson".

IRVING A. WILLIAMSON
Chairman