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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

## Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

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www.house.gov/reform February 7, 2002

Mr. Clay Johnson, III Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel The White House Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am writing to seek information about Bush Administration appointees who formerly worked for Enron.

According to press accounts and a review of financial disclosure reports, several Administration officials did work for Enron prior to being appointed to their current government positions. Some of these Enron connections are already well known. For example, Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White worked as vice chairman of Enron Energy Services. In addition, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy Lawrence B. Lindsey and U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick both served on Enron's advisory board and received \$50,000 in salary in 2000.

I have recently learned that there are other Administration officials with significant ties to Enron. For example, Principal Deputy Secretary of the Army Dominic Izzo worked as senior director for national construction for Enron Energy Services. According to Mr. Izzo's biography, he was the "Manager of Projects for the design, construction, and start-up of a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal and Harbor in Dabhol, India." This terminal and harbor is part of a \$3 billion power plant project in Dahbol in which Enron has a 65% interest. According to press accounts, "[t]he White House coordinated a multi-front effort last year to help Enron Corp. settle a dispute with the Indian government" over this power plant.<sup>2</sup>

Some press accounts indicate that Commerce Department General Counsel Theodore W. Kassinger has done work for Enron in the past. As I understand it, Mr. Kassinger was a partner

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Biography of Dominic Izzo (available at http://www.hqda.army.mil/asacw/izzobio.htm).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>White House Aided Enron in Dispute, Washington Post (Jan. 19, 2002).

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in the Houston-based law firm of Vinson & Elkins and handled international trade and project-financing work for clients, including Enron. According to press accounts, Commerce Secretary Donald L. Evans consulted with Mr. Kassinger last October after Enron Chairman Kenneth L. Lay asked Secretary Evans to intervene on Enron's behalf with a credit rating agency.<sup>3</sup>

In order to learn more about how Enron tried to influence both the political process and public policy, it is important to obtain a complete list of <u>all</u> appointees who have done work for Enron in the past. Accordingly, I request that your provide me with the following information:

- (1) All persons appointed since January 20, 2001, who worked for Enron as employees, consultants, or advisors whether paid or unpaid;
- (2) All persons appointed since January 20, 2001, who performed professional services for Enron, including legal, consulting, and accounting services whether paid or unpaid;
- (3) All persons appointed since January 20, 2001, whose spouse worked in the capacity referred to in request (1) or performed the services referred to in request (2); and
- (4) All persons appointed since January 20, 2001, whose appointment was recommended by Enron, Mr. Lay, or any other Enron employee.

I would appreciate your providing this information to me by the close of business on February 14, 2002.

Sincerely,

Hen'y A. Waxman' Ranking Minority Member

 $<sup>^3</sup>Enron\ Asked\ for\ Help\ from\ Cabinet\ Officials,$  Washington Post (Jan. 11, 2002).