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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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July 27, 2007

Mr. James L. Connaughton
Chairman
Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Chairman:

When we met on May 10, 2007, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was withholding approximately 500 documents that were responsive to the Committee's July 2006 request. At that meeting, we explained that CEQ had two basic options for each of the documents: provide the document to the Committee or assert executive privilege with respect to the document.

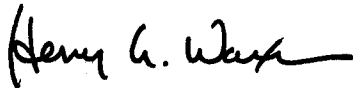
During the meeting and in a June 28 letter, we offered, as an accommodation to your concerns, to have Committee staff review the documents to assess whether the documents would be necessary for the Committee's investigation. This process, which you elected to pursue, has been constructive. Committee staff has since reviewed a significant number of the withheld documents and has determined that many of them are unnecessary for the investigation. Of the documents that the staff reviewed, we are requesting that you provide 56 documents to the Committee. These 56 documents, which are identified in the enclosed list, are necessary for the investigation. We ask you to provide complete, unredacted copies of these documents to the Committee by Tuesday, July 31, 2007.

On July 20, 2007, CEQ briefed Committee staff on the reasons why CEQ is continuing to withhold and not provide for staff review approximately 175 documents from the Committee. As Committee staff explained at the time, the briefing did not resolve the issues surrounding these documents. Marty Hall, your Chief of Staff, has requested that we meet with you again to discuss how access can be provided to these remaining documents. We believe we made CEQ's options clear at our meeting on May 10, 2007, but we are willing to meet again with you. We should ensure that this meeting occurs prior to Congress' August recess.

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Your staff may contact Greg Dotson or Jeff Baran of the Committee staff at 202-225-4407 in order to schedule our meeting.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman



Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member

Enclosure

Appendix A
Documents to Be Provided to the Committee
(By Bates Number and in Rough Chronological Order)

967
1016
2046
2091
890
900
1435
1217
1214
1057
2092
2110
2414
2793 or 2733 (7/16/02 email from Thornstrom to McClellan with attachment)
1302
1088
1336
1855
248
2400
2670
1920
2675
2421
2484
2714
2803
2800
2801
2783
2819
2103
1034
1033
1847
1026
Unmarked 5/13/03 fax from Halpern to Cooney with attachment
1554
CEQ 57 PC (6/16/03 email from Hannegan)
3107
3108
1853

3180

2924

2433

2438

2072

648

1107

Unmarked 1/9/06 email from Peel to Hannegan, et al.

1176

1845

2102

1757

1758

2857