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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
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March 10, 2008

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Labor
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Madam Secretary:

As part of the Oversight Committee's investigation into the business practices of Blackwater Worldwide, the Committee has obtained evidence indicating that Blackwater may have improperly sought to avoid compliance with labor standards imposed on federal contractors by misclassifying its security guards as "independent contractors" rather than "employees."

I request that the Department of Labor initiate an inquiry into whether Blackwater has complied with federal labor laws and take any appropriate enforcement action. I am enclosing for your review a memorandum I sent today to the members of the Oversight Committee. It summarizes the information that the Committee has received.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the House of Representatives and has broad oversight jurisdiction as set forth in House Rule X.

If you have any questions, please contact me or ask your staff to contact Theodore Chuang or Russell Anello of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5420.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member