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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

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March 22, 2002

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INDEPENDENT

Mr. Stephen F. Cooper  
Chief Executive Officer and Chief Restructuring Officer  
Enron Corporation  
1400 Smith St.  
Houston, TX 77002

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Many members of Congress currently are trying to determine the role that government oversight and regulation can play to prevent the kinds of problems that arose concerning Enron Corporation. As part of that effort, it is important to understand the extent of Enron's political activities and lobbying efforts. Accordingly, I am writing to request information on these topics.

Please provide the following:

1. All records related to contributions made by Enron Corporation or its political action committee from 1996 through 2001 to candidates for federal, state, or local office, political parties, political committees, Florida recount committees, inaugural committees, or any entity organized under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code.
2. All records related to the use of Enron aircraft between 1996 and 2001 by any candidate, or by any person employed by or working on a contractual basis for any candidate, for federal, state, or local office.
3. All records related to contacts by Enron officers, employees, or outside representatives with the Executive Office of the President and all federal agencies between 1996 and 2001.
4. All records related to contacts by Enron officers, employees, or outside representatives with members of Congress or congressional staff between 1996 and 2001.
5. The *Washington Post* reported that "[a]t Enron, it was understood that executives

receiving astronomical salaries would turn part of the money back to the company's smooth political operation."<sup>1</sup> The *Washington Post* also reported on an April 1999 letter sent by then-chairman and CEO Kenneth Lay to Enron executives asking for contributions to the Bush campaign.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the *New York Times* has reported on a June 2000 internal memorandum to company executives which "details suggested 'voluntary' contributions for Enron executives, from \$500 a year for a low-level manager to \$5,000 a year for a member of the executive committee."<sup>3</sup> Please provide all records related to any Enron policy or practice to provide supplemental compensation or otherwise encourage Enron executives to make contributions to any candidate for federal, state, or local office.

6. An article in the *New York Times* recently reported that, according to associates of Karl Rove, senior adviser to the President, Mr. Rove recommended Ralph Reed, then a Republican consultant and formerly the head of the Christian Coalition, for a lucrative consulting contract with Enron as Governor George Bush was considering a run for the presidency. Mr. Rove reportedly wanted to retain the support of Mr. Reed without adding him to the Bush campaign's payroll. The article stated that both Mr. Reed and Mr. Rove contend that the contract had nothing to do with the Bush campaign.<sup>4</sup> Please provide all records related to Enron's decision to enter into an employment or consulting relationship with Ralph Reed.
7. According to financial disclosure reports, Assistant to the President Lawrence Lindsey served on an Enron "Advisory Board" and United States Trade Representative Robert Zoellick served on an Enron "Advisory Council," and each received \$50,000 in salary for 2000. Please provide all records related to the appointment, service, and compensation of Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Zoellick on any Enron advisory board or council from 1999 to 2001, and all records, during the same period, related to any activities by Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Zoellick made on behalf of the Bush campaign.
8. Republican political consultant Edward Gillespie reportedly played a leading role in gaining Enron access to the Bush Administration on matters of energy and tax policy. According to one former Enron employee, Mr. Gillespie was Enron's "hired gun," and

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<sup>1</sup>*Hard Money, Strong Arms and "Matrix": How Enron Dealt with Congress, Bureaucracy*, Washington Post (Feb. 10, 2002).

<sup>2</sup>*Id.*

<sup>3</sup>*Perks for Biggest Donors, and Pleas for More Cash*, New York Times (July 30, 2000).

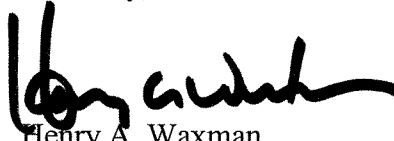
<sup>4</sup>*See, e.g., A Suicide and a Resignation as the Formal Inquiries Get Under Way*, New York Times (Jan. 27, 2002).

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“Whenever we had to get in to see a Republican, the first call was to Gillespie.”<sup>5</sup> Please provide all records related to Enron’s employment or consulting relationship with Edward Gillespie between 2000 and 2001.

I would appreciate your replying to this request by April 5, 2002. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry A. Waxman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "W".

Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Minority Member

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<sup>5</sup>See *GAO Vows to Sue for Cheney Files; Hill Probes Enron Influence on Task Force*, Washington Post (Jan. 26, 2002).