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August 1, 2005

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The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am writing to request information regarding the composition of U.S. delegations to international telecommunications conferences. In April, Time magazine reported that the White House refused to allow several industry experts to join a U.S. delegation to a telecommunications conference. A White House spokesman confirmed that these experts were removed for political reasons.¹ I am concerned that the United States may be considering political affiliations when selecting members of delegations to technical meetings. To assist in my oversight efforts, I request that you provide:

1. The number of international conferences held each year to which the Department of State sends a delegation that includes industry representatives as either members or advisers.
2. A list of international conferences held since 1996 for which the White House rejected at least one member or adviser to the delegation proposed by the Department of State, including the number of proposed delegates or advisers rejected by the White House and the number reinstated at the request of the Department of State.

I look forward to receiving a response to my request by August 15, 2005. If your staff has any questions, please call my staff contact, Anna Laitin, at (202) 225-5051. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member

¹ *Any Kerry Supporters on the Line?*, Time (May 2, 2005).