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House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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February 4, 2008

The Honorable David M. Walker
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Walker:

I am writing to request that the Government Accountability Office investigate the expenditures of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WESPAC), one of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation Management Act of 1976.

In June 2007, a number of Hawaiian nonprofit organizations raised serious allegations regarding the inappropriate use of government funds and unethical conduct by WESPAC and its Executive Director.¹ More recently, credible sources have also contacted the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to raise similar concerns about the conduct of WESPAC and its Executive Director.

Given the importance of ensuring that the regional fishery council tasked with managing an area of nearly 1.5 million square miles functions properly, the Committee asks that you undertake an investigation into WESPAC's expenditures to verify whether the council and its Executive Director are properly using and accounting for government funds.

¹ Pacific Fisheries Coalition, *Environmental & Cultural Organizations Call for WESPAC Congressional Hearing and the Resignation of WESPAC Director Kitty Simonds* (June 20, 2007).

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Please coordinate this investigation with Erik Jones of the Committee staff at (202) 225-4407.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry A. Waxman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Henry A. Waxman
Chairman

cc: Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member