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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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October 15, 2007

The Honorable Ryan Crocker
Ambassador to Iraq
United States Embassy
APO AE 09316
Baghdad, Iraq

Dear Ambassador Crocker:

We are writing to inquire about the recent oil exploration contract that Hunt Oil signed with Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government. By signing a contract directly with a regional government, Hunt Oil may have undermined U.S. national policy of working toward the passage of an oil revenue sharing plan, which the Bush Administration has called a critical step towards national political reconciliation in Iraq and the return home of U.S. troops.

The U.S. Embassy has expressed concern about Hunt Oil's actions,¹ and Iraq's Oil Minister immediately condemned the deal, calling it "illegal."² President Bush himself stated:

I knew nothing about the deal. I need to know exactly how it happened. To the extent that it does undermine the ability for the government to come up with an oil revenue sharing plan that unifies the country, obviously if it undermines it I'm concerned.³

In particular, concerns have been raised about whether the CEO of Hunt Oil, Ray Hunt, used nonpublic information learned from his position on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board to further his company's economic interests. This board is tasked with providing "advice to the President concerning the quality and adequacy of intelligence collection, of analysis and estimates, of counterintelligence, and of other intelligence activities

¹ The White House, *Press Conference by the President* (Sept. 20, 2007) (online at www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/09/20070920-2.html).

² *Iraqi Oil Minister says Hunt Oil Deal with Kurd Regional Government Illegal*, International Herald Tribune (Sept. 10, 2007).

³ The White House, *Press Conference by the President* (Sept. 20, 2007) (online at www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/09/20070920-2.html).

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... [as well as] the legality of foreign intelligence activities.”⁴ Its members routinely meet with intelligence principals, receive classified briefings, visit installations, and “have access to all the information related to foreign intelligence that they need to fulfill their vital advisory role.”⁵ Indeed, all departments and agencies that engage in intelligence activities are bound by executive order to provide the board with “all information ... deem[ed] necessary to carry out its responsibilities.”⁶

We are assessing whether this is a matter that should be investigated by the Committee. For this reason, we ask that you provide the Committee with copies of all communications, including e-mails relating to any negotiations, contracts, or other interactions between Hunt Oil and the Iraqi government or the Kurdistan Regional Government between any official, employee, or agent of the U.S. Embassy in Iraq and:

1. Any official, employee, or agent of the federal government;
2. Any official, employee, or agent of the Iraqi government; and
3. Any official, employee, or agent of the Kurdistan Regional Government.

In addition please provide copies of all communications, including e-mails, between any official, employee, or agent of the U.S. Embassy in Iraq and any official, employee, or agent of Hunt Oil Company.

Please provide the requested information by Friday, November 2, 2007.

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. Enclosed with this letter are instructions on how to respond to the Committee’s document request.

⁴ The White House, President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (online at www.whitehouse.gov/pfiab) (accessed Oct. 12, 2007).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Exec. Order No.12863, 70 FR 20261 (Apr. 18, 2005).

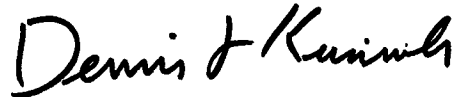
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If you have any questions about this request, please contact Theodore Chuang or Matt Siegler of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5420.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman



Dennis J. Kucinich
Chairman
Subcommittee on Domestic Policy

cc: Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member

Darrell E. Issa
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Domestic Policy