

DARRELL E. ISSA
49TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
211 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3906
FAX: (202) 225-3303

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1800 THIBODO ROAD, SUITE 310
VISTA, CA 92081
(760) 599-5000
FAX: (760) 599-1178

SOUTHWEST RIVERSIDE COUNTY
(951) 693-2447

www.issa.house.gov



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0549

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEES:
DOMESTIC POLICY—RANKING MEMBER
FEDERAL WORKFORCE, POSTAL SERVICE &
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEES:
COURTS, THE INTERNET & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS, &
CIVIL LIBERTIES

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

July 21, 2008

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Last month, we wrote you requesting an investigation and hearings on allegations that mortgage lenders may have given special deals to Members of Congress. To date, we have received no substantive response to our request.

We would like to point your attention to the August 2008 article in *Conde Nast Portfolio* "Angelo's Many 'Friends'" that contains new allegations that House of Representatives staff, a California state appeals court judge, and other current and former Federal officials received special treatment from Countrywide due to their positions. Of particular interest, former Countrywide Financial loan officer Robert Feinberg states that he personally spoke with U.S. Senator Chris Dodd and U.S. Senator Kent Conrad about their special mortgage deals. The article also notes the existence of e-mail traffic between Mr. Feinberg and former Countrywide CEO Angelo on the subject of VIP loans and notes that Mr. Feinberg is in possession of "stacks of documents about the V.I.P. operation."

On the subject of Countrywide's Federal Lobbying Efforts, the article states:

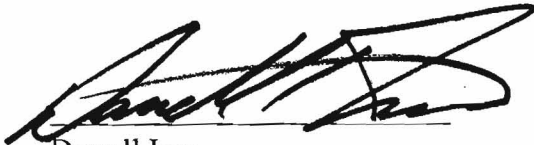
"To gain access and "keep their edge," says retired managing director Sidney Lenz, who oversaw government relations for Countrywide, the company's lobbyists identified potential customers on Capitol Hill and in federal agencies and directed them to the V.I.P. program. The company's lobbyists were "incredibly receptive" to loan requests from officials, she says, and it paid off. "Countrywide had an incredibly good relationship with Congress. It was not unusual for us to get a call saying, 'A bill's being

introduced. It's a little technical, and there are parts we don't understand. Can you help educate us on this?' "

Given the fact that Congress is actively considering bailing out Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Countrywide, and other lenders it is essential that Congress investigate to determine the extent that public officials and staff have been compromised by improper gifts.

As Members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, we are troubled by your lack of response to our previous request and would like to know why the Committee is hiding from its duty to investigate this matter. Both documents and witnesses are clearly ready and available for an investigation and we would note that the Committee has investigated other improprieties committed by lobbyists. For all the hearings your committee has held on subjects other than waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal government, it is an appalling lapse that the Committee is not investigating this matter. The Committee's failure to act when presented with rapidly growing evidence of wrongdoing makes a mockery of Speaker Pelosi's election promise to improve House Ethics. If you have reasons for not investigating this matter, other than the involvement of prominent Democrats, we would appreciate it if you would share them with us in your response.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Mark Souder
Member of Congress