

TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA,
CHAIRMAN

CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CONNECTICUT
DAN BURTON, INDIANA
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA
JOHN M. MCHUGH, NEW YORK
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
GIL GUTKNECHT, MINNESOTA
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
CHRIS CANNON, UTAH
JOHN J. DUNGAN, JR., TENNESSEE
CANDICE MILLER, MICHIGAN
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
DARRELL ISSA, CALIFORNIA
VIRGINIA BROWN-WAITE, FLORIDA
JON C. PORTER, NEVADA
KENNY MARCHANT, TEXAS
LYNN A. WESTMORELAND, GEORGIA
PATRICK T. MCHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLES W. DENT, PENNSYLVANIA
VIRGINIA FOXX, NORTH CAROLINA

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-3074
FACSIMILE (202) 225-3874
MINORITY (202) 225-8051
TTY (202) 225-6852

<http://reform.house.gov>

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA
MAJOR R. OWENS, NEW YORK
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
Wm. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MARYLAND
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND
LINDA T. SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER,
MARYLAND
BRIAN HIGGINS, NEW YORK
ELEANOR HOLMES MORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT,
INDEPENDENT

May 17, 2005

VIA FACSIMILE

Mr. Scott Bloch
U.S. Office of Special Counsel
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

Dear Mr. Bloch,

The Committee on Government Reform and has recently reviewed your efforts to respond to the findings of Government Accountability Office (GAO) 04-36. In that report, the GAO noted that the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) demonstrated a chronic inability to process cases in a timely manner which inevitably led to case backlogs. The report called for the OSC to develop a comprehensive strategy to address these recurrent failures.

We appreciate the professional seriousness with which you approached these recommendations and reduced the existing backlogs in the year following this report. Unfortunately, this activity, while beneficial to whistleblowers, was regarded with suspicion by activists who claim to work on behalf of whistleblowers.

At your invitation, a bipartisan group of congressional staff visited your offices on three occasions to review closed cases. The staff reviewed any closed case they requested, and you provided access to decision makers for questions and policy discussions. At the end of this period of review, one previously critical Senate staffer informed us "we have satisfied ourselves that they did not throw any folders into the Potomac." We are also satisfied that your hard work – and smart work – has resulted in a more responsive Office of Special Counsel.

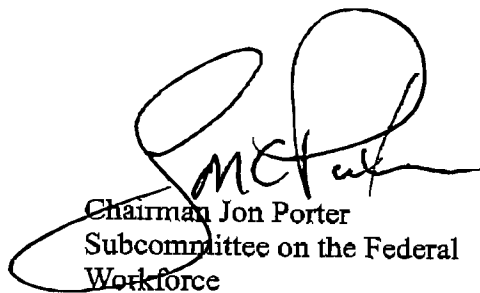
Mr. Scott Bloch
May 17, 2005
Page 2

We want to congratulate you on your efforts to improve the services you provide to whistleblowers. We continue to be impressed with the sincerity and pragmatism with which you and all your staff approach your jobs. You are providing a great service to the American people and the Federal government by protecting whistleblowers from illegal reprisals.

Sincerely,



Chairman Tom Davis
Committee on Government Reform



Chairman Jon Porter
Subcommittee on the Federal
Workforce

cc. Rep. Henry Waxman, Ranking Member