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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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September 17, 2008

The Honorable Earl E. Devaney
Inspector General
Department of the Interior
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Devaney:

On September 10, 2008, you released three investigative reports regarding the Minerals Management Service (MMS).¹ I am writing on behalf of the Oversight Committee to seek further information about the role of the oil companies in the abuses you documented.

I have consulted with the Natural Resources Committee prior to making this request so that our oversight efforts continue to be coordinated and avoid duplication. The Natural Resources Committee will continue to take the lead in the House on oversight of MMS and, in fact, is holding a sixth hearing on this subject tomorrow at which you will testify. The Oversight Committee will focus on the role of Chevron, Shell, Hess, and Gary Williams Energy Corporation in giving improper gifts to one-third of MMS officials in the Denver office.

To assist the Oversight Committee in its investigation, I request that you provide complete, unredacted copies of all documents obtained pursuant to subpoenas issued by the Inspector General to the oil companies. Also, please produce all transcripts of investigative interviews relating to these gifts. Please provide these documents and transcripts by Monday, September 22, 2008.

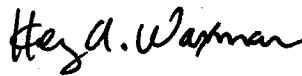
¹ Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior, Investigative Report of Gregory W. Smith (Sept. 2008); Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior, Investigative Report of MMS – Federal Business Solutions Contracts (Sept. 2008); Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior, Investigative Report of MMS Oil Marketing Group – Lakewood (Sept. 2008).

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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.

If you have any questions concerning this request, please have your staff contact Jeff Baran of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry A. Waxman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H".

Henry A. Waxman
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member