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January 15, 2002

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The Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Abraham:

I am writing to request information about any communications you had with Enron Chairman Kenneth L. Lay about Enron's financial situation.

Recent news accounts have indicated that Enron executives spoke with several senior Administration officials – including you – last October and November, prior to the company filing for bankruptcy on December 2, 2001.¹ According to news accounts, you telephoned Mr. Lay on November 2, 2001, “to ask about the situation after [you] read news reports about the company’s financial problems.”² The Energy Department spokeswoman described the phone call as “information gathering.”³ According to the spokeswoman, Mr. Lay “conveyed an optimistic impression of the situation, without going into specifics.”⁴

It has also been reported that Enron executives, including Mr. Lay, made five requests for meetings with you last year, but that these requests were denied.⁵ However, senior Energy Department officials did meet with senior Enron executives on two occasions.

In light of these developments, I request that you respond to the following questions:

- (1) Since January 20, 2001, have you or any Energy Department employee had any

¹See *Enron Asked for Help from Cabinet Officials*, Washington Post (Jan. 11, 2002).

²*Enron Asked for Help from Banks*, Associated Press (Jan. 11, 2002).

³*Subpoenas on Enron Issued; Calls to Aide Cited*, Boston Globe (Jan. 12, 2002).

⁴*Id.*

⁵*Id.*

The Honorable Spencer Abraham

January 15, 2002

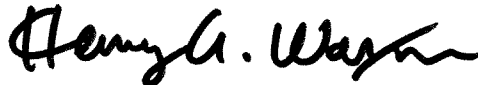
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communications with Mr. Lay or any Enron employee regarding Enron? If so, please provide the dates of any communications, the form of the communication, the persons involved, the information exchanged or matters discussed, and copies of any documents that were exchanged.

- (2) Since January 20, 2001, have you or any Energy Department employee discussed Enron with any member of the cabinet, including the President or the Vice President, or any member of the White House staff? If so, please provide the dates of any communications, the form of the communication, the persons involved, the information exchanged or matters discussed, and copies of any documents that were exchanged.
- (3) Since January 20, 2001, have you had any communications with anyone regarding Enron, other than the communications described in questions 1 and 2? If so, please provide the dates of any communications, the form of the communication, the persons involved, the information exchanged or matters discussed, and copies of any documents that were exchanged.

It is essential that these questions be answered so that there is a clear public accounting of this matter. We all owe that to the thousands of families that are facing financial ruin from the Enron bankruptcy. I hope it will be possible for you to provide the answers I am seeking by January 23, 2002.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member