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ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
TTY (202) 225-6852

June 18, 1998

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The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Government Reform and Oversight
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Henry:

I am writing to follow up on our Tuesday meeting regarding the Committee's rules and procedures.

As you know, I believe that it is very important that we move forward to immunize the four witnesses that we have had under consideration. They clearly have relevant testimony with regard to Ted Sioeng, Johnny Chung and others. The Justice Department has been thoroughly consulted and has no objections. The House, by a unanimous vote, instructed our Committee to immunize these witnesses — a charge that I take very seriously.

To that end, I have tried to go the extra mile to address the concerns that you have raised about our procedures. In your letter of last October, you stated that you and your colleagues in the minority would not vote for immunity unless three conditions were met. I have agreed to two-and-a-half of the three:

- You asked that depositions be conducted in alternating one-hour rounds. I have agreed.
- You asked that documents be released either by agreement or by a Committee vote — that we discontinue releasing documents through the working group. I have agreed.
- You asked that subpoenas to which you object be submitted to a Committee vote. I have offered a reasonable alternative — that if you object to a subpoena that I plan to issue, I submit the subpoena to the working group for consideration.

These are not cosmetic or insignificant changes. This is a serious, substantive offer. I believe that I have gone more than halfway to meet your concerns -- I have agreed to two-and-a-half of the three changes that you have requested. If we are going to reach a compromise, both sides are going to have to give a little ground.

The Honorable Henry Waxman

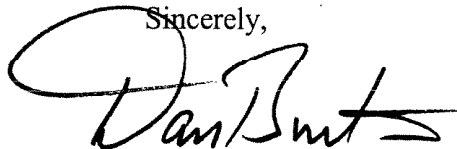
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The American people have a right to know if foreign money infiltrated our political system. It is our job to get the facts and report them to the public. By not immunizing these witnesses and not getting their testimony, we are keeping the American people in the dark. We have an obligation to find some middle ground that will allow us to move forward and get the facts.

I am preparing to schedule another vote on immunity for these four witnesses for next Tuesday afternoon. At that meeting, I am more than willing to bring up the compromise rules changes outlined above. I think that I have made a more-than-reasonable proposal. I hope that between now and next Tuesday, you will meet with your Democratic colleagues to discuss this matter, and that you will agree that it is time to put our differences behind us, immunize these witnesses, and get the facts out.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Burton". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "D" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Dan Burton
Chairman

cc: Members, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight