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ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

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March 4, 1998

The Honorable Dan Burton  
Chairman, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: March 3, 1998 Draft Subpoenas to State Democratic Parties

Dear Chairman Burton:

I write to set forth my concerns about the draft subpoenas which you propose to serve on the State Democratic Parties of Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania (the "State Party Subpoenas").

Your State Party Subpoenas include 47 individuals and 24 entities within their scope. My staff is aware of no evidence that any of these individuals or entities made contributions to the state Democratic parties of these states or to any federal candidates from these states, with the possible exception of federal candidates from California. For example, our research indicates that Kenneth Wynn made contributions to several Republican campaigns, including the Ensign for Senate, Ensign for Congress, Furman for Senate, and Dole for President campaigns, but we are aware of no evidence -- or credible allegation -- that Mr. Wynn contributed monies to any of the state Democratic parties covered by the State Party Subpoenas.

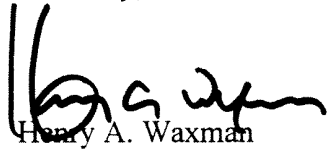
I therefore request an explanation and justification for each of your proposed State Party Subpoenas. These State Party Subpoenas appear to be nothing more than an unnecessary fishing expedition to search for evidence that may not exist.

Your State Party Subpoenas also appear to impose an unnecessary burden and expense on the state Democratic parties who will needlessly be tasked with complying with them. The Majority's investigators should be able to acquire all the contribution information it seeks -- to the extent it may exist -- directly from the appropriate state authority which maintains state party contribution records. It is inappropriate to force the various state Democratic parties to bear the cost of responding to these subpoenas when all the responsive information you are seeking can be obtained from the public source tasked to maintain them.

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I request that you refrain from issuing the State Party Subpoenas until you have responded to my request for explanation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Waxman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H".

Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Minority Member

cc: Members of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight