JOHN CONYERS, JR., Michigan
CHAIRMAN

HOWARD L. BERMAN, California
RICK BOUCHER, Virginia
JERROLD NADLER, New York
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, Virginia
MELVIN L. WATT, North Carolina
ZOE LOFGREN, California
SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Texas
MAXINE WATERS, California
WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT, Massachusetts
ROBERT WEXLER, Florida
LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ, California
STEVE COHEN, Tennessee
HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., Georgia
BETTY SUTTON, Ohio
LUIS V. GUTIERREZ, Illinois
BRAD SHERMAN, California
TAMMY BALDWIN, Wisconsin
ANTHONY D. WEINER, New York
ADAM B. SCHIFF, California
ARTUR DAVIS, Alabama
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Florida
KEITH ELLISON, Minnesota

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6216

(202) 225–3951
http://www.house.gov/judiciary

LAMAR S. SMITH, Texas
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR., Wisconsin
HOWARD COBLE, North Carolina
ELTON GALLEGLY, California
BOB GOODLATTE, Virginia
STEVE CHABOT, Ohio
DANIEL E. LUNGREN, California
CHRIS CANNON, Utah
RIC KELLER, Florida
DARRELL E. ISSA, California
MIKE PENCE, Indiana
J. RANDY FORBES, Virginia
STEVE KING, Iowa
TOM FEENEY, Florida
TRENT FRANKS, Arizona
LOUIE GOHMERT, Texas
JIM JORDAN, Ohio

April 17, 2008

The Honorable Glenn A. Fine
Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20535

The Honorable H. Marshall Jarrett
Counsel for Professional Responsibility
Office of Professional Responsibility
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Mr. Fine and Mr. Jarrett:

We are writing to request that your offices conduct a thorough investigation and report on the troubling allegations of selective, politically-motivated prosecution in recent years by the Department of Justice. Just as your offices have cooperated in the ongoing review of the unprecedented firing of nine U.S. Attorneys in 2006 and allegations of politically-motivated hiring at the Department, we believe it is important that your offices investigate this matter, which seriously threatens the reputation and integrity of the Department and the federal justice system.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of a report just issued by the House Judiciary Committee's majority staff on "Allegations of Selective Prosecution in Our Federal Criminal Justice System." The report describes the results so far of the investigation by the Committee and its majority staff into serious allegations that criminal prosecutions have been brought by federal prosecutors under the current Administration for political reasons, reflecting similar concerns about political interference with the justice system as have led to the investigation of the U.S. Attorney firings.

These concerns extend far beyond the Committee and the Congress. As the report documents, former federal prosecutors, 44 former state Attorneys General, and former Attorney General Richard Thornburgh have expressed serious misgivings about, in Attorney General Thornburgh's words, "apparent political prosecution." A 2007 academic study of the problem concluded that the current Administration's criminal investigations of Democrats vs.

Republicans is "highly disproportionate" and that statistically, there is "less than one chance in 10,000" that this disproportion has occurred by chance. As Attorney General Thornburgh lamented, our citizens "may no longer" have "confidence that the Department of Justice is conducting itself in a fair and impartial manner without actual political influence or the appearance of political influence."

Under these circumstances, it is critical that the Department undertake a thorough and fair internal review of this problem, which unfortunately has not yet been undertaken, to help determine any possible wrongdoing and restore the confidence of the American people in our federal justice system. We look forward to your offices undertaking this important project, and pledge to cooperate in any way possible. Please direct responses and any questions to the staff at the House Judiciary Committee, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (tel: 202-225-3951; fax 202-225-7680). Thank you for your cooperation.

Thank you in advance for your prompt cooperation.

Sincerely,

John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman

Linda T. Sánchez
Chair, Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law

Artur Davis
Member, Committee on the Judiciary

Tammy Baldwin
Member, Committee on the Judiciary

cc: Hon. Michael B. Mukasey
Hon. Lamar S. Smith
Hon. Chris Cannon
Hon. Brian A. Benczkowski

Enclosure