



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Inspector General

May 7, 2007

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6216

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of April 27, 2007, in which you provided notice to the Attorney General that the House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary (Committee) has authorized an application to a United States District Court for an order that would grant use immunity to former Department of Justice (Department) employee Monica Goodling in exchange for her testimony before the Committee.

As you know, the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General have recused themselves from this matter. Therefore, because the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) are conducting a joint investigation of the removal of United States Attorneys and related issues, and after consultation with the Solicitor General in his capacity as Acting Attorney General in this matter, we are responding on behalf of the Department pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 6005.

As we previously discussed with Committee staff in response to their questions, the OIG/OPR joint investigation is in its early stages, and we intend to take the investigation wherever it leads. As in any investigation that potentially could involve evidence of criminal conduct, we would prefer that any potential subject not be granted immunity at this stage of the investigation.

However, we understand the Committee's interest in obtaining Ms. Goodling's testimony. Therefore, after balancing the significant congressional and public interest against the impact of the Committee's actions on our ongoing investigation, we will not raise an objection or seek a deferral pursuant to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 6005.

Please contact us if you have additional questions about this matter.

Handwritten signature of Glenn A. Fine in black ink.

Glenn A. Fine
Inspector General

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of H. Marshall Jarrett in black ink.

H. Marshall Jarrett
Counsel, Office of
Professional Responsibility

cc: The Honorable Lamar Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Linda T. Sanchez
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Chris Cannon
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Paul D. Clement
Solicitor General
U.S. Department of Justice