HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6143

Majority (202) 225–5051
Minority (202) 225–5074

February 13, 2007

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On January 19, 2007, we sent a written request seeking documents regarding the alleged role of a Defense Department political appointee, James O'Beirne, in directing an organized and systematic screening process to hire Republican loyalists for key positions at the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq. We also requested to speak with Mr. O'Beirne personally regarding this issue. We asked for the documents and the meeting with Mr. O'Beirne by January 26, 2007.

As of today, more than two weeks after the January 26 deadline, the Defense Department has not provided a single document to the Committee. According to Defense Department officials, our request was reportedly "mislaid," despite being mailed, faxed, and even e-mailed to legislative affairs officials in the Pentagon.

This was not the first request for this information. Our January 19 request renewed a prior request by Mr. Waxman on September 21, 2006, for the same material. This request was apparently ignored entirely, according to officials at a subsequent Defense Department briefing, because it was sent by a Democrat.

Needless to say, we are extremely disappointed at the Department's continued failure to comply with these requests.

Given this record, the Committee is considering the use of compulsory measures to obtain the Department's cooperation. This step could be avoided, however, if the Department would provide, on a voluntary basis, the information sought by the Committee. We thus urge you to provide the following information to the Committee without further delay:

(1) Documents sufficient to show all individuals who were hired to work at the CPA (a) as temporary political appointees or (b) by Mr. O'Beirne or his staff, as well as the titles of their positions and descriptions of their employment responsibilities;

(2) Documents sufficient to show the names of all individuals who applied for, sought out, or were otherwise considered for temporary or full-time employment with the CPA, but were rejected by Mr. O'Beirne or his staff;

(3) Copies of all resumes, CVs, lists of references, letters of recommendation, and any other materials submitted by the individuals described in (1) or (2), as well as any notes or other evaluations of these individuals by Mr. O'Beirne or his staff;

(4) Copies of all communications, including e-mails, between Mr. O'Beirne or his staff and the Heritage Foundation, other think tanks, political parties or activists, or the offices of members of Congress regarding potential CPA employees or the CPA hiring process;

(5) Copies of all communications, including e-mails, with the White House (Executive Office of the President or the Office of the Vice President) regarding potential CPA employees or the CPA hiring process;

(6) Copies of all communications, including emails, sent to or from Mr. O'Beirne regarding potential CPA employees or the CPA hiring process; and

(7) Documents sufficient to show the names of all individuals who worked for the CPA as temporary or full-time employees.

For each of items (1), (2), and (7), above, a list containing the requested information may be provided in lieu of the requested documents.

We request that the Department provide these documents as soon as possible, but in no case later than **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2007.** An attachment to this letter provides additional information about how to respond to the Committee's request. We also request that Mr. O'Beirne appear for an interview at **10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 2, 2007.** He should report to **Room 2157 Rayburn House Office Building.**

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact David Rapallo or Theodore Chuang with the Committee staff at (202) 225-5420.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman
Chairman

Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member