



Office of the Deputy Attorney General
Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 05 2012

June 5, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker, Mr. Leader, Congressman McCarthy, and Mr. Chairman:

This letter updates you on the matters raised in your May 18, 2012 letter to the Attorney General. Following the receipt of your letter, the Department has had a number of constructive conversations with staff aimed at satisfying the legitimate goals of congressional oversight while, at the same time, ensuring the integrity and independence of the Department's law enforcement efforts.

Your May 18 letter, which identified the two key questions that you believe remain unanswered in this matter, was a helpful step toward reaching a resolution of the issues in dispute. We are hopeful that these ongoing conversations will lead to a mutually acceptable resolution of these issues and continue to provide the kinds of information that would answer your questions. While our staffs continue to discuss these issues, I want to reiterate that I remain available to meet with you personally.

These conversations stand in contrast with the tone and content of the letter that Chairman Issa made public today. Chairman Issa's letter makes clear that sealed court documents relating to pending federal prosecutions being handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California have been disclosed to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in violation of law. This is of great concern to us. While we are legally prohibited from commenting on the content of sealed court documents, we disagree with the Chairman's assertions.

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The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, The Honorable Darrell Issa
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As I have stated on a number of occasions, the Department of Justice remains committed to addressing your two key questions and to continuing to work cooperatively with you and your staffs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Cole', written in a cursive style.

James M. Cole
Deputy Attorney General