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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

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April 30, 2007

Paul D. Clement
Solicitor General
The Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Solicitor General Clement:

As you know, the Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) and Office of the Inspector General (OIG) have initiated a joint investigation to examine issues related to the recent dismissals of United States Attorneys. We write to seek assurance that the results of this investigation will be made available to the Congress and to the American people.

At the Judiciary Committee's April 19 oversight hearing, Senator Whitehouse asked Attorney General Gonzales whether the joint report of this investigation would be made public. Citing his recusal from the joint investigation, the Attorney General told the Committee that the question should be directed to you.

According to Inspector General Glenn A. Fine and OPR Counsel H. Marshall Jarrett, the investigation will examine the propriety of the dismissals, including whether the removal of any United States Attorney was intended to interfere with, or was in retaliation for, either pursuing or failing to pursue prosecutions or investigations. It will also examine the accuracy of statements made by various Department officials to Congress about the removal of United States Attorneys.

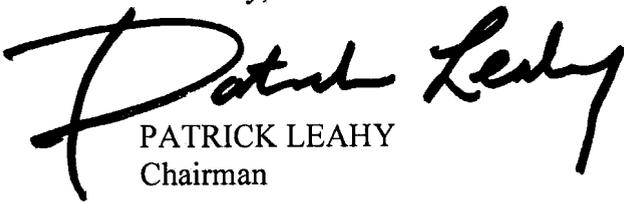
While we are hopeful that this joint investigation will help us to understand the truth of what occurred with these dismissals, the results of the investigation will only be useful if they are accessible to Congress and to the public. The Congress, and the public, have a right to know whether DOJ officials have behaved improperly – and whether they have been truthful.

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Given that the OIG makes its reports publicly available as a matter of course, and that it is statutorily required to publicly release a summary of its activities and recommendations on a semiannual basis, we can think of no reason why the results of this very important investigation would not be treated in a similar fashion.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY
Chairman



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
United States Senator