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2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
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May 10, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On Thursday, May 12, 2011, the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and Small Business will hold a joint hearing entitled "Politicizing Procurement: Will President Obama's Proposal Curb Free Speech and Hurt Small Business?" The purpose of the hearing is to consider a draft Executive Order that would require entities seeking federal contracts to disclose information about political donations.

In your recent letter to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, you stated that you recognized the need to hear from "many stakeholder groups" on this important issue.¹ The witnesses you have invited, however, appear to represent only one side of the debate. I am concerned that such an unbalanced approach would not provide Members an accurate or complete understanding of this issue.

For these reasons, I request that you invite Fred Wertheimer, the President of Democracy 21, to testify at the hearing. Not only is Mr. Wertheimer a recognized national leader on campaign finance issues, but he would provide testimony on behalf of 34 open government organizations that recently sent a letter to President Obama expressing their "strong support" for the draft Executive Order.²

Mr. Wertheimer has indicated he is available and willing to testify. Thank you for your cooperation with this request.

Sincerely,


Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

¹ Letter from Chairman Darrell E. Issa and Chairman Sam Graves to the Honorable Jacob J. Lew (May 9, 2011).

² See, e.g., Letter from Campaign Legal Center et al., to President Barack Obama (May 4, 2011) (online at www.pogo.org/pogo-files/letters/government-secrecy/gs-og-20110504.html).