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June 1, 2012

The Honorable Hilda L. Solis
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Solis:

As Chairman of the committee of primary jurisdiction over the U.S. Department of Labor, I respectfully request information concerning the modification of policies concerning the dissemination of economic data to the news media and the public.

On April 10, 2012, DOL issued a statement outlining new policies and procedures concerning "press lock-ups"¹ and the transmission of economic data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Employment and Training Administration (ETA).² I understand these changes were based on a report prepared by Sandia National Laboratories (Sandia) to address DOL management's concerns that key economic data had been prematurely released.³

To gain a better understanding of DOL's new procedure – including the need for such procedures – please provide a complete copy of Sandia's August 2011 report to the Committee on Education and the Workforce **upon receipt of this letter**. In addition, provide the committee with the following **no later than June 15, 2012**:

¹ The term "press lock-up" refers to DOL's longstanding procedure of allowing credentialed members of the news media have access to and prepare news stories about embargoed economic data reports for 30 minutes prior to public release.

² U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Public Affairs, "U.S. Department of Labor Press Lock-ups Policy Statement and News Organization Agreement". April 10, 2012 <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/opa/OPA20120672.pdf>

³ Sandia National Laboratories, *Executive Summary*, August 2011. (on file at the House Committee on Education and the Workforce).

1. An explanation of why DOL personnel believed there was an unauthorized release of economic data and when DOL personnel first discovered an unauthorized release had occurred.
2. All communications and documents from or to the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the Deputy Secretary, the Office of Public Affairs, BLS, ETA, the Office of the Solicitor of Labor, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management concerning possible unauthorized release of economic data and the establishment of the new procedures outlined in DOL's April 10, 2012 policy statement.
3. All communications and documents between DOL and the Office of Management and Budget concerning the possible unauthorized release of economic data and the establishment of the new procedures outlined in DOL's April 10, 2012 policy statement.
4. An explanation of why Sandia was granted a sole-source award to produce the August 2011 report, including all procurement records.
5. A timetable under which DOL plans to be in compliance with the recommendations included in Sandia's August 2011 report.⁴
6. A description of any forensic examination of computers and/or other information technology (IT) equipment in the press lock-up area in connection with an unauthorized release of economic data.
7. A description of the means by which DOL personnel communicated concerns about an unauthorized release of economic data to DOL's Office of Inspector General (OIG), including any documents or transmittal letters that may have been referred to OIG.
8. A description of DOL's protocols related to the removal of the news media's computers and other IT equipment from the press lock-up area, including a description of DOL's plans for any unclaimed equipment.
9. A list of any DOL-owned computers and other IT equipment in the press lock-up area determined to be missing, including the estimated cost of this property.
10. An estimated cost of replacing privately owned computers and other IT equipment in the press lock-up facility with DOL-owned equipment.
11. A copy of DOL's new credentialing criteria for media outlets participating in the lock-up.

⁴ *Id.*

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you are unable to provide the requested information and materials by the times specified, please inform the committee in writing why you cannot meet the stated deadlines, and the date by which you will provide this information. If you have additional questions or comments, please contact Joe Wheeler of the committee staff at (202) 225-7101.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Kline". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

JOHN KLINE
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce

Enclosure

CC: The Honorable George Miller, Senior Democratic Member