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June 16, 2009

Mr. Gregory B. Craig
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Craig:

I am writing to request further information regarding the dismissal of Mr. Gerald Walpin, the Inspector General at the Corporation for National and Community Services (CNCS).

As you are aware, serious allegations about political motives for firing Mr. Walpin have been raised. These allegations have been stoked by the White House's failure to explain why Mr. Walpin was dismissed as required by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended by the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 (IG Reform Act). In the notice to Speaker Pelosi dated June 11, 2009, the President states that he no longer has the fullest confidence in Mr. Walpin. In your letter to Senator Grassley of the same date, you suggest that the President's lack of confidence in Mr. Walpin constitutes an explanation for his dismissal. To the contrary, this statement explains nothing and at a minimum fails to satisfy the spirit of the IG Reform Act.

The appointment of an Inspector General is to occur without regard to political affiliation or influence because of the need for independence and objectivity. Mr. Walpin's office recently concluded investigations that have proved inconvenient for CNCS and this Administration. The failure to explain the reason for Mr. Walpin's dismissal has left the inevitable impression that the White House fired Mr. Walpin because his office had been investigating a supporter of the President.

An unbiased, non-political Inspector General is particularly vital to an agency whose purpose is to promote service, and I am deeply troubled by the appearance that political motivation may have been at play in the dismissal of Mr. Walpin.

To address this concern I would appreciate responses to the following requests.

1. A full explanation of the White House's reason for terminating Mr. Walpin that includes all of the factors that were considered in making this decision;
2. A complete list of all of the individuals who were included or consulted in this decision;
3. A complete timeline of events in regard to this matter;
4. A complete recitation of all materials, cases, issues and events that were considered in this decision and that led to the President determining he no longer had confidence in Mr. Walpin's ability to be the Inspector General for CNCS; and
5. All communication (including but not limited to email and other electronic messages, phone calls, meetings and letters) between the White House, Mr. Walpin, CNCS and any other Federal Agency or Official relating to Mr. Walpin's job performance, work product, dismissal and any other relevant communication

I would appreciate a response to these questions by June 30, 2009. The answers to these questions will help all of us understand the basis for Mr. Walpin's dismissal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Buck McKeon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Buck" being more prominent and the last name "McKeon" following in a similar style.

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon