

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK,
CHAIRMAN

PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
GERRY E. CONNOLLY, VIRGINIA
MIKE QUIGLEY, ILLINOIS
MARCY KAPTUR, OHIO
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PATRICK J. KENNEDY, RHODE ISLAND
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND
HENRY CUELLAR, TEXAS
PAUL W. HODES, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
PETER WELCH, VERMONT
BILL FOSTER, ILLINOIS
JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA
STEVE DRIEHAUS, OHIO

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
FACSIMILE (202) 225-4784
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

www.oversight.house.gov

November 30, 2009

DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA,
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

DAN BURTON, INDIANA
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
LYNN A. WESTMORELAND, GEORGIA
PATRICK T. McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA
BRIAN P. BILBRAY, CALIFORNIA
JIM JORDAN, OHIO
JEFF FLAKE, ARIZONA
JEFF FORTENBERRY, NEBRASKA
JASON CHAFFETZ, UTAH
AARON SCHOCK, ILLINOIS
BLAINE LUETKEMEYER, MISSOURI
ANH "JOSEPH" CAO, LOUISIANA

Mr. Larry R. Felix
Director
Bureau of Engraving and Printing
14th and C Streets, SW
Washington, DC 20228

Dear Director Felix:

Today the *Washington Post* reported on an extraordinarily questionable and costly program underway at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.¹

Reportedly, your agency has made the determination to dispense \$75 gift cards to 534 senior agency officials if they agree to return their government-issued printers. If true, your initiative may go down in history as one of the all time senseless uses of taxpayer dollars.

I am going to need your assistance in helping me understand why your agency needs to spend in excess of \$40,000 to recover its own property.

The Post's story reads in part:

Angry employees at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing say the cash-strapped agency is giving taxpayer money to government employees to return government printers.

At least 534 mostly senior bureau employees have individual printers to ensure that sensitive documents – related mostly to personnel issues – don't end up in the wrong hands. But now the agency wants them back and plans to give employees a \$75 gift card to turn them over. Employees that surrender their printers will instead use network printers – all in an effort to cut paper, ink and electricity costs.

¹ Ed O'Keefe, Federal Eye, *Paper Jams at Bureau of Engraving and Printing*, [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com), Nov. 30, 2009, http://voices.washingtonpost.com/federal-eye/2009/11/paper_jams_at_bureau_of_engrav.html.

Mr. Larry R. Felix
November 30, 2009
Page 2

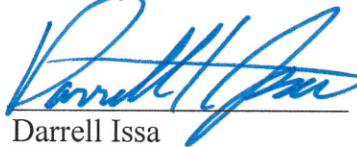
* * *

The gift cards will 'reward employees who voluntarily agree to use a network printer that would admittedly take additional personal effort, as it would be less convenient and more time consuming to print a document at a network printer than using a printer at their desk,' bureau spokeswoman Claudia Dickens said in an e-mail. (What?! They can't just walk down the hall to retrieve their documents? Hmm...)

Because of the seriousness of this matter, I request you to provide the Committee with an explanation of why your agency believes it is necessary to spend \$40,000 to recover the property of the federal government. In your response, please address why alternative considerations were ruled out, i.e., why didn't you ask your employees to return the printers for free. Please provide a full and complete response by December 15, 2009.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your responses. If you have any questions about this request please contact Steve Castor of the Committee staff at 202-225-5074.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Edolphus Towns, Chairman