

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,  
CHAIRMAN

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK  
PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK  
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND  
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO  
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS  
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI  
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA  
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS  
BRIAN HIGGINS, NEW YORK  
JOHN A. YARMUTH, KENTUCKY  
BRUCE L. BRALEY, IOWA  
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BETTY McCOLLUM, MINNESOTA  
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE  
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND  
PAUL W. HODES, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT  
JOHN P. SARBANES, MARYLAND  
PETER WELCH, VERMONT  
JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA

ONE HUNDRED TENTH 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](http://www.oversight.house.gov)

TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA,  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

DAN BURTON, INDIANA  
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CONNECTICUT  
JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK  
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA  
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA  
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA  
CHRIS CANNON, UTAH  
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE  
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO  
DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA  
KENNY MARCHANT, TEXAS  
LYNN A. WESTMORELAND, GEORGIA  
PATRICK T. McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA  
VIRGINIA FOXX, NORTH CAROLINA  
BRIAN P. BILBRAY, CALIFORNIA  
BILL SALI, IDAHO  
JIM JORDAN, OHIO

July 28, 2008

The Honorable Darrell Issa  
211 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Souder  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

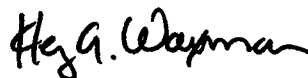
Dear Rep. Issa and Rep. Souder:

I am writing regarding your request that the Committee investigate allegations that mortgage lenders provided preferential treatment for members of Congress and congressional staff. I appreciate your input regarding the Committee's agenda.

This type of issue has come up previously. During the Clinton campaign finance investigation, some members of the Committee requested that the Committee's investigation be extended to examine the fundraising activities of members of Congress. The decision made by Chairman Burton was to defer on these issues to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, which has primary jurisdiction over the conduct of members. Last Congress, during the Committee's investigation of Jack Abramoff, Chairman Davis made a decision for similar reasons to limit the Committee's inquiry to Mr. Abramoff's contacts with the White House and not to examine the actions of members of Congress. I followed this precedent this Congress.

Because the issues you raise would require the Committee to investigate the conduct of members, the precedents of the Committee indicate that the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct would be the appropriate venue for the issues you have raised.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman  
Chairman

cc: Tom Davis  
Ranking Minority Member