



GSA Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs

February 2, 2007

Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 205015

Dear Chairman Waxman:

This responds to your letter dated January 19, 2007, regarding a *Washington Post* article about the General Services Administration (GSA). The *Post's* mischaracterization of the facts and suggestions of impropriety are unsupported.

The "three principal issues" raised by the *Post* story are characterized by inaccuracy and prejudice. Specifically, the enclosed materials will show:

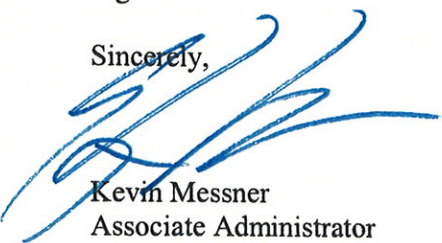
1- A procedural mistake was made, discovered and corrected. In an initial attempt as new Administrator to champion the cause of small minority, women, and disabled veteran-owned businesses, the Administrator recognized and took responsibility for the mistake. The Administrator rejects the implication that her intentions were improper.

2- The Administrator did not intervene in the suspension or debarment proceedings involving five major contractors. Few of the statutory authorities as Administrator are as consequential to the government and to the business community as the authority to suspend and debar federal contractors. It is a distortion to equate a desire to be informed promptly when such decisions are pending with interference in this process.

3- The Administrator's proposal that the IG exercise fiscal discipline as part of an agency-wide initiative came well before the IG opened his investigation of the Administrator. As far as we know, the IG's investigation of the Administrator has remained open since September 2006.

GSA believes that the Committee's review of the documents will allay any concerns you may have. The Administrator is available to brief you and your Committee at your earliest convenience about our terrific organization.

Sincerely,



Kevin Messner
Associate Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Ranking Minority Member Tom Davis

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