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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-3951

<http://www.house.gov/judiciary>

April 17, 2008

Mr. Karl Rove

Dear Mr. Rove:

We write seeking your appearance before the House Judiciary Committee to testify concerning the troubling issue of the politicization of the Department of Justice during this Administration, including allegations regarding the prosecution of former Governor of Alabama Don Siegelman. As you know, the Committee has received sworn testimony and reviewed extensive documents raising serious questions about actions you or your staff may have taken that brought political considerations to bear on prosecutorial operations of the Department. Against this background, we were pleased to read recent reports that your attorney has stated your willingness to testify before the Committee.¹ Given the importance of these issues to the fair administration of justice in this country, your appearance to answer these charges is imperative.

In the case of the prosecution of former Governor Don Siegelman of Alabama, the Committee has received sworn testimony from an Alabama Republican attorney, Ms. Jill Simpson, that she heard two separate conversations in which it was discussed that you would contact the Department and press for the prosecution of Mr. Siegelman and the provision of Department resources to the matter. A detailed staff report released today puts Ms. Simpson's testimony in the context of other testimony and evidence suggesting that you or other high-level Washington officials may have been involved in the Siegelman matter and describes several other disturbing and potentially political aspects of the prosecution.²

¹ See Comments of Attorney Robert Luskin to MSNBC, April 7, 2008. available at <http://thinkprogress.org/2008/04/07/rove-testify-siegelman/>.

² Majority Staff Report, *Allegations of Selective Prosecution in Our Federal Criminal Justice System* (April 18, 2008), available at <http://judiciary.house.gov>.

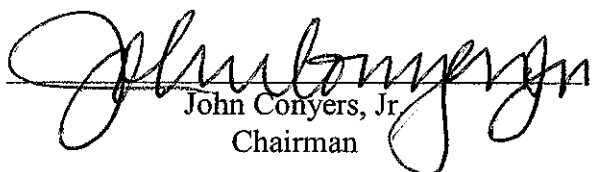
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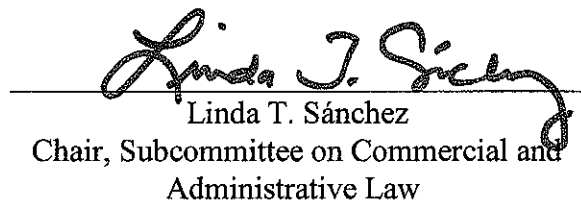
In a recent interview with GQ Magazine, you respond by describing Ms. Simpson as a "complete lunatic" and asserting that she never mentioned your name during the deposition that she submitted to before Committee staff.³ In fact, Ms. Simpson actually referenced you several times at deposition.⁴ In any event, particularly since you have briefly commented on this matter in GQ and while serving as a commentator on Fox News, we believe the subject, like other serious charges regarding the role of politics at the Department of Justice, should be addressed before a key investigating Committee of Congress.

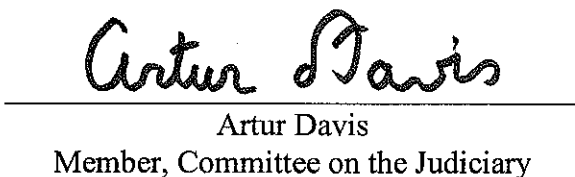
We look forward to scheduling an early date for your voluntary appearance. Committee staff will contact your attorney directly to make arrangements. Please direct any questions to the staff at the Judiciary Committee office, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. (tel: 202-225-3951, fax:: 202-225-7680).

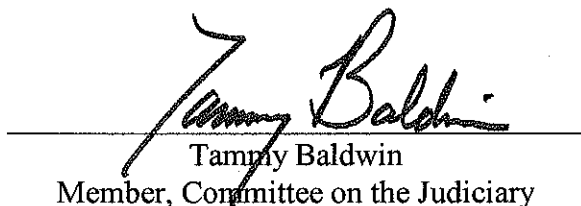
Thank you in advance for your prompt cooperation.

Sincerely,


John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman


Linda T. Sánchez
Chair, Subcommittee on Commercial and
Administrative Law


Artur Davis
Member, Committee on the Judiciary


Tammy Baldwin
Member, Committee on the Judiciary

³ DePaulo, *Karl Rove Likes What He Sees*, GQ Magazine Blog, April 2, 2008, available at <http://men.style.com/gq/blogs/gqeditors/2008/04/karl-rove-likes.html>.

⁴ See, e.g., Interview of Dana Jill Simpson, Sept. 14, 2007, at 26-27, 50-54.

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cc: Hon. Lamar S. Smith
Hon. Chris Cannon
Mr. Robert Luskin