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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0906

September 3, 2009

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President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

I would like to share my concern and the concerns of some of my constituents about the unprecedented number of policy czars employed by the White House. By my count, there were at least 32 active czars. This large number of current czars is troublesome, especially since the czars have been granted a lot of authority in numerous policy areas. Yet, each czar is not accountable to congressional oversight but tasked with leading major policy efforts for the administration.

I would appreciate full and complete answers to the following questions:

1. How many policy czars have you appointed?
2. How does the number of czars in your administration compare with previous administrations?
3. Where do funds come from to pay for them?
4. What oversight measures exist to ensure transparency and accountability?

This information would go a long way to make certain that your appointment of these czars is not just an attempt to avoid congressional examination of your policies. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I request that you respond in writing by October 3, 2009. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Cliff Stearns
United States Representative

CS:mm

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