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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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November 10, 2010

Representative Darrell E. Issa  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
B- 350A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Issa:

Elections have results, and one of the results of 2010 mid-term elections is that your desire to become chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will be realized. Holding the gavel of the principal investigative and oversight committee in the House of Representatives is a powerful position. You will be able to call hearings, require witnesses to testify at those hearings and demand documents from any citizen, corporation or governmental agency in the Nation. Such awesome power is a privilege held in trust for the people of the U.S. and should be accompanied by restraint, respect for law and basic fairness.

In view of such responsibilities of power, I am disappointed by recent comments you have made in which you liken the economic stimulus to "walking around money."<sup>1</sup> That term, as you may know, refers to the use by certain political campaigns of money for off-the-books, wholly unaccountable, and potentially illegal purposes. It does not begin to describe funds subject to the bimonthly scrutiny of the Government Accountability Office, which has issued no less than 10 reports on the use of stimulus funds; or the publications and websites of every Federal agency that committed stimulus funds; or the investigations and reports of the Inspectors General of those agencies; or the 50 state websites devoted to accounting for the use of stimulus funds in that state; or the various publications of the Council of State Governments; the U.S. Conference of Mayors, or the National Conference of State Legislatures.

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<sup>1</sup> Statement by Congressman Darrell Issa, *The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer*, November 8, 2010.

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While one may quarrel with the use to which the economic stimulus has been put, or even whether fiscal stimulus is an appropriate governmental response to the worst economic recession since the Great Depression, it is not possible to argue that the economic stimulus resembles "walking around money." There is no evidence with which I am familiar which substantiates your claim, and much which refutes it.

Therefore, I am writing to demand that you produce your evidence or retract your comment. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis J. Kucinich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "K".

Dennis J. Kucinich  
Chairman  
Domestic Policy Subcommittee  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform