

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2006

The Honorable Alberto Gonzales
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Attorney General Gonzales:

As you know, the Department of Justice and the FBI recently refused a number of Congressional requests for information regarding its five-year-old investigation into the 2001 Anthrax attacks. The FBI also announced a blanket prohibition on any further anthrax briefings, citing concerns about alleged public disclosures of sensitive information following previous briefings on the case. This is an inappropriate response to legitimate Congressional oversight requests.

Given recent revelations that FBI agents were the anonymous sources for *New York Times* stories casting suspicion on "person of interest," Stephen Hatfill, it appears that the FBI may itself be responsible for the inappropriate disclosures of sensitive case information. Whether on Capitol Hill or within the FBI, individuals who make inappropriate disclosures should be held accountable. However, as an institution, Congress cannot be cut-off from detailed information about the conduct of one of the largest investigations in FBI history. That information is vital in order to fulfill its Constitutional responsibility to conduct oversight of the Executive Branch.

Therefore, we request that you direct the FBI to provide Congress with a comprehensive briefing on the status of the five-year-old anthrax investigation.

Sincerely,



CHARLES E. GRASSLEY
United States Senator



RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress

ARLEN SPECTER
United States Senator

GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress

CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator

DIANE E. WATSON
Member of Congress

DIANNE E. FEINSTEIN
United States Senator

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MARK DAYTON
United States Senator

FRANK PALLONE Jr.
Member of Congress

DANIEL K. AKAKA
United States Senator

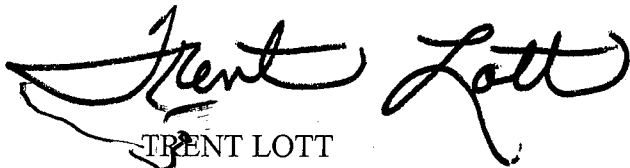
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Member of Congress

CHRISTOPHER S. "KIT" BOND
United States Senator

JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



TRENT LOTT
United States Senator



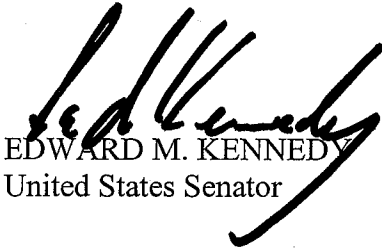
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



FRANK R. LAUTENBERG
United States Senator



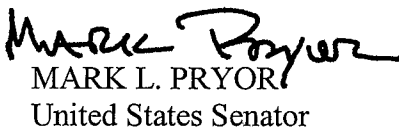
DENNIS J. KUCINICH
Member of Congress




EDWARD M. KENNEDY
United States Senator



CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
Member of Congress



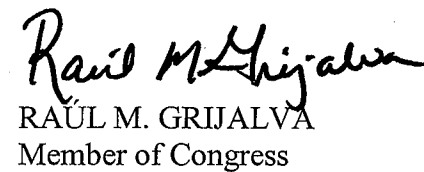
MARK L. PRYOR
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DONALD M. PAYNE
Member of Congress



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



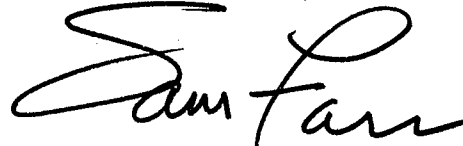
MICHAEL M. HONDA
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JOHN LARSON
Member of Congress