

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2006

The Honorable Alphonso Jackson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Jackson,

We write to express our concerns over the delay in your response to our inquiries about allegations of unethical and illegal practices in the procurement process at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Given the significant amount of funding HUD awards in what are intended by Congress to be nonpolitical, competitive contracts, and the growing public concern over reports of misconduct, we urge your immediate response.

On May 9, 2006, and again on May 15, 2006, Congressman Frank, Ranking Member of the Financial Services Committee, and Congressman Waxman, Ranking Member of the Government Reform Committee, wrote to you asking that your agency turn over all documents relating to any contract that you personally reviewed, approved, or were involved with during your tenure as the Secretary of HUD. This request was in response to your comments at an April 28th real estate forum in Dallas, TX about the eligibility of the President's critics to receive federal contracts. On May 10, 2006, Congresswoman Slaughter, Ranking Member of the Rules Committee, sent you a letter asking that you provide all communications and documents relating to HUD's contract with Shirlington Limousine, and asked that you clarify your comments about the eligibility of Administration opponents to receive federal contracts.

Nearly a month has passed since we placed our inquiries, and we have yet to receive a response or any of the requested information from you or your agency. All that we have learned—through news reports, not direct correspondence—is that your comments about refusing HUD contracts to Administration critics were untrue and merely intended to explain how politics in Washington works. We are disappointed that you would suggest that politics plays any role in the federal procurement process, or that you would share a fictional story to give the impression that you condoned and supported political considerations in awarding HUD contracts. Your explanation thus far is not satisfactory, and does nothing to assuage our concerns.

In order to ensure that federal procurement laws have not been broken, and that the integrity of the contract process has not been breached, it is imperative that we have access

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to the information we have requested. As legislators charged with providing oversight of federal agencies, we have a responsibility to conduct a thorough review of HUD's federal contracts to ensure that American tax dollars are not being used to reward political supporters or to fund contracts for companies embroiled in scandals involving bribery, gambling, and prostitution.

We are awaiting your prompt response.

Sincerely,

		
Louise M. Slaughter	Barney Frank	Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member	Ranking Minority Member	Ranking Minority Member
House Committee on Rules	House Committee on Financial Services	House Committee on Government Reform