

TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA,  
CHAIRMAN

CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CONNECTICUT  
DAN BURTON, INDIANA  
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA  
JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK  
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA  
GIL GUTKNECHT, MINNESOTA  
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA  
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO  
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA  
CHRIS CANNON, UTAH  
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE  
CANDICE MILLER, MICHIGAN  
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO  
DARRELL ISSA, CALIFORNIA  
JON C. PORTER, NEVADA  
KENNY MARCHANT, TEXAS  
LYNN A. WESTMORELAND, GEORGIA  
PATRICK T. McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA  
CHARLES W. DENT, PENNSYLVANIA  
VIRGINIA FOXX, NORTH CAROLINA  
JEAN SCHMIDT, OHIO  
VACANCY

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074  
FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974  
MINORITY (202) 225-5051  
TTY (202) 225-6852

<http://reform.house.gov>

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA  
MAJOR R. OWENS, NEW YORK  
EDOLPHUS TOWNES, NEW YORK  
PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK  
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND  
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO  
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS  
Wm. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI  
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA  
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS  
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND  
LINDA T. SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA  
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER,  
MARYLAND  
BRIAN HIGGINS, NEW YORK  
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT,  
INDEPENDENT

June 14, 2006

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne  
Secretary  
Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to inquire about the any use by the Department of Interior of chartered private jets for official and unofficial travel. This form of transportation carries with it large cost to the taxpayer and, as such, is subject to exacting federal regulations under OMB Circular A-126.<sup>1</sup>

According to an article in today's *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, a private jet leased by the Centers for Disease Control for use in responding to public health emergencies was repeatedly requisitioned by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to mount a publicity campaign for the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. On two occasions while the jet was occupied for this use, CDC had to charter another aircraft — at additional cost to the taxpayer — to carry out legitimate emergency missions.<sup>2</sup>

In light of the concerns raised by these disclosures, I am conducting a review of the use of passenger aircraft in other selected federal departments. I request that you provide me with information relating to the ownership and leasing of private passenger aircraft by the Department of Interior, and the Department's use of those aircraft over the past 5 years. Specifically, I request:

- A list of private aircraft owned or leased by the Department of Interior, including each aircraft's assigned agency and intended function;

---

<sup>1</sup> Circular No. A-126, Revised, White House Office of Management and Budget, (May 22, 1992).

<sup>2</sup> *Cabinet Official is Primary User of CDC Jet*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, (June 14, 2006).

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne  
June 14, 2006  
Page 2

- Copies of all contracts for the leasing of passenger aircraft for use by the Department;
- Copies of all departmental or agency policies relating to travel on these aircraft;
- Information about each use of passenger aircraft by the Department since January 2001, including the date and route flown, the names and positions of all passengers, the purpose of the flight, and any other documentation of use required by federal rules, including OMB Circular A-126;
- Information on the cost of each flight since January 2001 and the justification for the use of government aircraft in lieu of commercial travel, as required by federal rules, including OMB Circular A-126.

I would appreciate your prompt attention to this request. I ask that you provide these documents by no later than June 30, 2006.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry A. Waxman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Minority Member