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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 11, 2006

The Honorable David Dreier
237 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dreier:

I appreciated receiving your request for suggestions of anti-corruption reforms that will restore integrity, honor and transparency to the U.S. House. The American people clearly reject the egregious excesses and abuses of power that have become standard operating procedure in the House of Representatives. During my five years in Congress, I have been dismayed by the majority's situational application of House rules for political advantage while undermining the basic democratic process and any semblance of fairness. And clearly, the access corporate lobbyists are afforded to inappropriately influence critical legislation is indefensible and unseemly to the average American as well as this Member of Congress. To ensure this democratic institution's future, the excesses and abuses of power must cease.

A strong, effective and bipartisan reform package is absolutely necessary to end the culture of corruption that has permeated the U.S. House in recent years. My recommendations are as follows:

- Prohibit lobbyists from paying for, sponsoring, or arranging travel for Members of Congress and Congressional staff.
- Prohibit former Members of Congress from using their privileged access to the House floor to lobby Members on legislation.
- Prohibit any budget reconciliation measures from being considered by the House if they would result in an increase in the federal deficit.
- Curb abuses of power by ending the practice of exchanging earmarks for votes in order to pass legislation.
- Limit all House votes to 20 minutes, unless there is a Unanimous Consent agreement, to prevent arm-twisting and inappropriate incentives from being offered.
- Prohibit legislation from being voted on until printed copies have been publicly available for at least 24 hours, and preferably 72 hours.

I look forward to working with all of my Democratic and Republican colleagues to pass a comprehensive anti-corruption reform package that will restore integrity to the "people's" House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty McCollum".
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

DAVID DREIER
CALIFORNIA

January 10, 2006

The Honorable Betty McCollum
1029 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Betty:

I write to request your input on a critical issue facing the Congress — lobbying reform. In light of recent events, Speaker Hastert has asked me to reach out to all members for their thoughts and suggestions. He has asked for bold action, and I am confident that we can implement real reform. A number of members have introduced their own thoughtful proposals. I particularly want to encourage anyone with an idea to come forward as soon as possible so that we can develop the best package.

Following the Speaker's lead, I know that all members share his desire to ensure the integrity of this great institution. If you have suggestions you would like to share, please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Dreier".