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**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

February 23, 2012

Neal Kemkar  
Deputy Associate Director  
for Energy and Climate Change  
Council on Environmental Quality  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Kemkar:

On April 25, 2011, we wrote the Department of the Interior (“Department”) to request documents about White House edits to the Executive Summary of the final report entitled “Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf” (“ISM Report”). On the same date, we wrote separately to the Department’s Office of Inspector General (“OIG”) requesting documents related to its investigation into the editing of the ISM Report. The OIG’s November 2010 report of its investigation “determined that the White House edit of the original DOI draft Executive Summary led to the implication that the moratorium recommendation had been peer reviewed by the experts.”

Our review of the limited number of documents that have been made available to us by the OIG and the Department has raised a number of questions in this matter that remain unanswered, including questions about your role in the editing of the ISM Report and the response to the peer reviewers’ objections. The Committee’s majority oversight staff will be conducting interviews of current and former Department officials, including you, who may have knowledge of the activities that are the subject of this investigation. We request your voluntary cooperation in scheduling this interview to occur at a mutually agreeable time during the week of February 27, 2012.

Witnesses may be represented by personal counsel at these interviews. Department or agency counsel may be allowed to accompany the witness and be present during an interview on a case by case basis where such presence would not involve a conflict of interest or otherwise potentially impede our ability to conduct an effective, fair, and efficient interview. Witnesses are not placed under oath in an interview; however, witnesses are required by law to be truthful in

answering questions from Congress. A witness or his or her personal counsel may raise an objection to a question. If such an objection cannot be resolved in the interview, the witness may be compelled to appear for a hearing. Under Committee rule 4(h), claims of common-law privileges are applicable only at the discretion of the Chairman. Witnesses will be given an opportunity to review at the Committee's offices any interview transcript generated as part of the interview and may be allowed to submit grammatical or typographical changes on a copy of the transcript itself but must submit in writing to the Committee any suggested substantive corrections to the transcript. Any such transcripts are for the official use of the Committee and copies of transcripts are not given to the witnesses. Careful consideration is given to any concerns a witness may raise regarding the public dissemination of any parts of the transcript.

Please contact us contact Byron R. Brown, Senior Counsel for Oversight, Office of Oversight and Investigations, on (202) 225-2761 to make arrangements for the scheduling of this interview.

Thank you for your prompt attention to and cooperation with this matter.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings  
Chairman  
Natural Resources Committee



Doug Lamborn  
Subcommittee Chairman  
Energy and Mineral Resources