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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 22, 2007

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Bodman dated April 18th, which requested a review of the results of the Department of Energy (DOE)'s reorganization of its intelligence functions last year. I share your commitment to the success of our counterintelligence programs, and am confident that the steps we have taken to consolidate intelligence organizations over the past year are contributing to stronger DOE intelligence programs across the board.

Your letter requested that DOE underwrite the travel costs for two Congressional Research Service (CRS) analysts to conduct an assessment of the implications and implementation of this consolidation. We would be pleased to cooperate with the CRS researchers in their planned travel and review of the reorganization of the DOE intelligence functions. I am informed by the Office of the General Counsel, however, that the appropriations law authorities described in the Government Accountability Office's Principles of Federal Appropriations Law do not extend to agency funds being used by the personnel of Legislative Branch agencies which receive regular appropriations for their activities. Therefore, the DOE does not appear to be in the position to finance the travel of the CRS researchers.

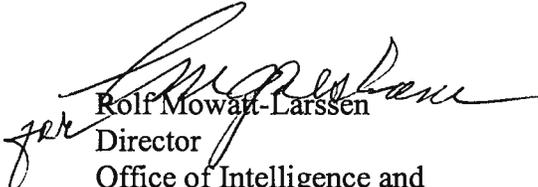
Nevertheless, I would be happy to meet with Committee members and staff—as well as with the CRS analysts you mention—to discuss our plans and progress since the legislation that mandated changes to DOE's intelligence structure took effect in October 2006. I also would be happy to make my staff available for further discussions with the CRS team. Moreover, DOE's Inspector General is required to submit a report to Congress assessing the implementation of the consolidation within a year of enactment. The results of that evaluation could be a useful starting point for further conversations with your Committee and CRS staff in the future, as well.

I look forward to working with the Committee to continue to build an effective and innovative foreign- and counter-intelligence program at the Department of Energy.



Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 202-586-2610 or Dirk Bartlett, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at 202-586-5450.

Sincerely,


Rolf Mowatt-Larssen
Director
Office of Intelligence and
Counterintelligence