

May 7, 2009

Larry Fisher
8728 Green Level Church Road
Cary, NC 27519

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Subject: A dysfunctional federal bureaucracy in need of restructuring

Dear Mr. President,

You have stated that your intention is to provide the American people with a government of qualified and accountable professionals whose agency operations are transparent, effective, and devoid of ties to lobbyists and special interest groups. Unfortunately for this Country, the government "professionals" that you inherited were often selected, not because of their qualifications, but because of their willingness to blindly follow the reigning political appointee's orders, enforce those orders, and eliminate all dissenting and qualified professionals; qualifications were seldom an issue and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) standards were either lowered or ignored to accommodate each Administration's desire for a particular type of manager. Congress' failure to pass meaningful whistleblower protection or penalties for those bureaucrats who abused their authority has covered-up fundamental (and serious) management problems within the federal bureaucracy that waste our tax dollars and threaten the very existence of this government. The bottom line is that you and your administration inherited not only a dysfunctional economy but a dysfunctional federal bureaucracy as well.

A January 2009 Associated Press article by a group of federal scientists to you titled, "FDA Scientists Complain to Obama of Corruption" accurately depicts the true state of the deficient federal bureaucracy that you inherited. A quote from this article: "Managers with incompatible, discordant and irrelevant scientific expertise in violation of the laws, rules, and regulations created an atmosphere at FDA in which the honest employee fears the dishonest employee." See Attachment A. These statements are consistent with the concerns expressed by numerous whistleblowers and groups that have actively lobbied Congress for government-wide whistleblower reforms and protection from their employing agencies over the past four years. See Attachment B, Petition to the United States Congress requesting oversight of both the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) and Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), which includes 76 whistleblower groups.

My name is Larry Fisher and I was included in the above referenced congressional petition both as an EPA accountant whistleblower and as the founder of the National Accountant Whistleblower Coalition. While I cannot speak for the other whistleblower groups, I can tell you that my documentation details a government-wide cover-up at all levels, including the current and former Comptroller Generals of the U.S. Gene Dodaro and David Walker, to hide a twenty-

plus year multibillion dollar outsourcing failure of key financial management responsibilities to AICPA firms, financial software companies, and management consulting firms. Like the FDA scientists, the honest employees (government 4 year degreed accountants and Certified Public Accountants) were retaliated against and eliminated to hide all levels of wrongdoing. The net result is that after all this time and billions in wasted tax dollars, this government has no ability to generate accurate financial statements; the accountability of the \$787 billion in stimulus money may also be in question. The level of incompetence is so great that a major restructuring of the federal financial management community is required; you can use my current employing agency, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to illustrate this point since many of the top and midlevel managers within the Office of the Chief Financial Office (OCFO), an accounting office, are the non-accountants who oversaw the elimination of many of EPA's credentialed accountants and then hid all reported accounting and financial system deficiencies from both Congress and the American people. If you would like, I can also contact the other whistleblower groups to provide your staff with details regarding both their experiences and the checks and balances needed to address the planned and inbred deficiencies that have become a very real cost of our government's operation. Under your leadership, we can ensure your goal of both a professional and accountable workforce through a review and upgrade of all OPM standards, management changes that are in compliance with those upgraded OPM standards, and a review and revision of all agency organization structures where necessary.


Attached are examples of the documentation that support my allegations of government corruption and gross incompetence which imperil the financial security of this Country:

- Attachment C - EPA job announcement that includes the lowering of OPM educational requirements for an accountant that allows virtually anyone to be classified as a government accountant.
- Attachment D - The EPA OCFO is an accounting office with approximately 400 employees. Of this total, please note that the majority of these positions are held by non-accountants. Equally troubling, there is no way of determining, based on the lowered OPM standard for a government accountant, which of EPA's accountants has a 4 year accounting degree, Certified Public Accountant certificate, etc. Then, consider that EPA is just one of 24 CFO Act agencies and you begin to get an idea of the gravity of the problem and the need for reviewing and upgrading all OPM standards, reviewing the qualifications of all managers and staff, and reviewing agency organization structures as well.
- Attachment E - Letter to current and former Comptroller Generals of the U.S. questioning the accuracy of their claims of "significant progress in the federal financial management community."
- Attachment F - Internal emails from Larry Fisher to KPMG auditors and EPA's managers regarding an EPA cover-up of reported deficiencies.
- Attachment G - January 14, 2009 letter to Congress,

- Attachment H - March 9, 2009 letter to Congress.

The above references include all documentation supporting my allegations against our government's top managers including those of my current employing agency, the EPA, and the current and former Comptroller Generals of the U.S. If there are any questions, please contact me via email at fisher.larryf@epa.gov, my EPA office at 919-541-4790, or my cell phone at 919-931-8962.

Sincerely,



Larry Fisher, Founder,
National Accountant Whistleblower Coalition

Enclosures

Cc: Lisa P. Jackson, EPA Administrator (w/enclosures)
John Berry, OPM Director (w/enclosures)