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NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
TRANSPORTATION  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 17, 2004

Honorable John Ashcroft  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I am writing to request that you immediately appoint a special counsel to investigate the circumstances of the no-bid contract awarded by the Department of Defense to the Halliburton Company (through its subsidiary KBR) on March 8, 2003 to operate Iraq's oil infrastructure.

As you may know, this no-bid contract, which was initially reported to be a \$50 million contract, eventually paid out \$2.5 billion to the Halliburton Company before it was opened up for other bids. Recent evidence suggests that the White House, including the Vice President's office, was improperly involved in coordinating and approving this procurement. I am enclosing this evidence and news reports that indicate possible illegal interference in the procurement process by the White House and specifically the Vice President's office.

The conduct in question raises possible violations of several provisions of Title 41 of the United States Code, including the Competition in Contracting Act, 41 U.S.C. § 253 et. seq. and 10 U.S.C. § 2302-2305. Also at issue are several criminal statutes, including 18 U.S.C. § 371, Conspiracy to Defraud the United States, and 18 U.S.C. § 1001, False Statements.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

