

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 15, 2005

Mr. Howard J. Krongard
Inspector General
U.S. Department of State
2121 Virginia Ave., N.W.
Suite 8100
Washington, DC 20522

Dear Mr. Krongard,

We are writing to request that you investigate allegations of serious misconduct by Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) Chairman Kenneth Y. Tomlinson. These troubling allegations, detailed below, have been brought to our attention by several highly credible sources. As senior members of the Senate and House committees with jurisdiction over the BBG, we have a particularly strong interest in the integrity of the organization, and we urge you to take immediate action.

The allegations against Mr. Tomlinson can be summarized as follows:

1) Questionable employment status – Section 304 of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 provides that BBG board members shall not be “regular full-time employees of the United States Government.” The Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 clarified that Congress intended the BBG board to function as a part-time oversight body, not to direct the day-to-day operations of the agency. Yet, during his tenure on the board, Mr. Tomlinson has frequently requested compensation for more than 32 hours a week (the definition of “full time”), and often up to 40 hours a week.

2) Billing BBG for work on CPB – In addition to serving as Chairman of the BBG, Mr. Tomlinson serves as Chairman of the Board of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). It is alleged that Mr. Tomlinson has spent a substantial portion of his time at the BBG working on business related to the CPB – a fact our sources indicate could be confirmed through an examination of phone, fax and email records – and that he has billed the BBG for these hours. It has been suggested that this inappropriate billing is related to the fact that annual compensation for CPB board members is capped at \$10,000, while compensation for BBG board members has no statutory limit.

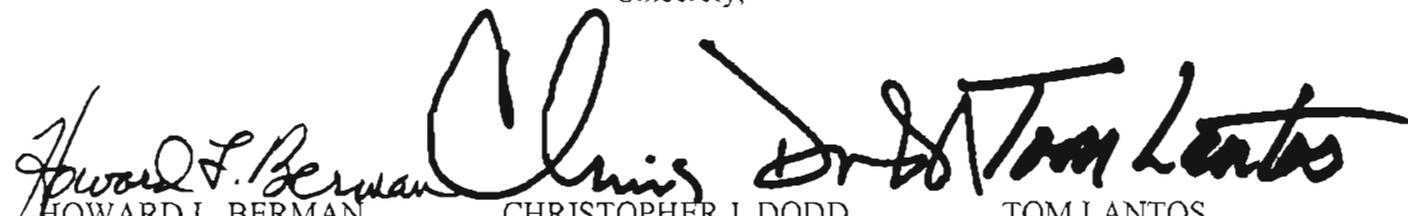
3) “Double-Dipping” – It is alleged that Mr. Tomlinson has requested compensation from both the BBG and the CPB for the same hours worked.

4) Misuse of BBG staff – It is alleged that Mr. Tomlinson has directed BBG staff to work on matters unrelated to BBG business, including but not limited to issues related to the CPB.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the enclosed letter written by a former BBG employee, and sent to your predecessor, alleging that Mr. Tomlinson engaged in a variety of illegal and unethical activities, some of which correspond to those noted above. We do not know if the Office of the Inspector General took any action following the receipt of this letter, but suggest that the information it contains could be useful in your investigation.

We appreciate your prompt and careful attention to this important matter and look forward to hearing the results of your investigation.

Sincerely,



HOWARD L. BERMAN
Member of Congress

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senator

TOM LANTOS
Member of Congress

Encl.