RSC
Republican Study Committee
www.house.gov/pence/rsc

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February 24, 2006

The Honorable Joshua B. Bolten
Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Room 251
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Bolten:

Thank you for your recent testimony before the House Budget Committee and overall efforts with regard to the President's FY 2007 budget submission. As you well know, Congress has since received the President's two supplemental requests to support ongoing efforts in the War on Terror and rebuilding efforts in the Gulf Coast, totaling $92.2 billion in emergency spending for FY 2006.

Before Congress even considers these requests, *all* Members of Congress need more information. First, it is absolutely vital that the Office of Management and Budget provide a detailed accounting of the nearly $400 billion already appropriated for these activities. This information should be thorough and go beyond a mere account-by-account description of the funds appropriated—it should tell Congress the what, when, and how taxpayer funds were spent.

Second, all executive agency spending justifications that were conveyed to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees in conjunction with the two most recent supplemental requests need to be sent to all Members immediately upon request. In addition, the transmitted documents did not include the Administration's year-to-year outlay estimates for each of the requested items—what it expects to actually spend and when. Please consider this letter my official request.

It is critical that all Members of Congress have access to the detailed spending justifications and year-to-year outlay projections so that we can intelligently exercise our Constitutional right to appropriate funds, and in order that we may provide effective oversight of how the tax dollars of working Americans are being spent.

These unclassified documents are prepared at taxpayer expense and concern the expenditure of taxpayer funds. Access to this data should not be limited to select congressional committees and their staff, but available for review by every Member of Congress and, ultimately, by every American.

I would greatly appreciate your prompt attention to my request by March 1, 2006.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING
Chairman, RSC Budget and Spending Taskforce