

September 8, 2006

The Honorable Henry J. Hyde
Chairman
Committee on International Relations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Chairman,

We are writing you to urge you to hold hearings on the illegal conduct of Kenneth Y. Tomlinson, the Chairman of the Board of Broadcasting Governors. As you may know, the Inspector General of the Department of State recently determined that Mr. Tomlinson:

- requested the hiring of a personal friend as a contractor without the knowledge of other board members or staff, and signed invoices providing almost \$250,000 in compensation even though the contractor provided no written reports or other supporting documentation required by the contract;
- used BBG resources to support his personal horse racing operation;
- requested and received compensation that exceeded the maximum allowed by law;
- requested and received compensation from both the BBG and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) on the same days on a number of occasions;
- directed BBG staff to work on matters unrelated to the BBG, including CPB business and personal matters; and
- conducted CPB work while at the BBG and had billed the BBG for those hours.

In response to our letter of August 29, 2006, the White House has merely said that the President stands by Mr. Tomlinson's renomination to his position, and Mr. Tomlinson has denied wrongdoing by, for example, stating that everyone knew he was exceeding the number of hours allowed by law. We urge you to hold hearings as soon as possible on Mr. Tomlinson's misconduct and on his and the Administration's apparent disregard for U.S. law.

Cordially,

Tom Lantos
Ranking Member

Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress