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July 28, 2008

The Honorable Scott J. Bloch
Special Counsel
Office of Special Counsel
1730 M Street NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20037-1350

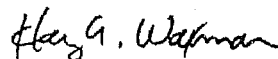
Dear Mr. Bloch:

I am writing to express my concern about the effectiveness of the Office of Special Counsel (OSC). OSC's primary mission is "to safeguard the merit system by protecting federal employees and applicants from prohibited personnel practices, particularly reprisal for whistleblowing." I know that you have dedicated several years of your professional career to OSC and value the interests of the agency.

Over the past several months, however, it has become clear OSC's mission is not being served as effectively as it could be. Earlier this month, your top deputy, James Byrne, the most senior career official at OSC, resigned his Senior Executive Service position. In Mr. Byrne's resignation letter, he stated that "the mission, independence, and very existence of the Office of Special Counsel are — and shall remain— at risk." He also called for your replacement.¹

The mission of the agency should be the paramount consideration. It is for this reason that I have concluded that OSC would be better served with new leadership and urge you to step down as the Special Counsel. Such a step would be in the best interests of the agency and federal employees it is charged to protect.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman

cc: Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member

¹ Letter from James Byrne, Deputy Special Counsel, to Scott J. Bloch, Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel (July 10, 2008).