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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

April 24, 1998

The Honorable William S. Cohen  
Secretary of Defense  
Pentagon, Room 3E-880  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Cohen:

Recently I was contacted by Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico. Senator Bingaman is proposing a private relief bill for Mr. Richard Barlow, formerly an employee with the Department of Defense. As you may know, private relief legislation is a claim against the United States Government and falls within the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, of which I am the Chairman.

I am aware of the correspondence the Department has had with Senator Bingaman. However, as Chairman, I would like to give the Department a chance to provide the Subcommittee with any further views before action is taken. Accordingly, I am requesting that you provide me with a detailed letter of the Department's reasoning and chronological order of events regarding this matter.

Since I would like to address this issue in a timely manner, I would ask that you submit your response no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. A copy of the proposed legislation is enclosed and I thank you in advance for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Administrative  
Oversight and the Courts