

Norman L. Eisen

November 20, 2011

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thanks very much for meeting with me. I know how busy you are and I very much appreciate you and your staff taking the time to talk about my service as Ambassador to the Czech Republic. I also appreciate the opportunity to discuss your concerns about my interactions with staff relating to the removal of Gerald Walpin as the Inspector General of the Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS).

With respect to the Walpin matter, you have asked me to clarify certain steps that were taken by the Administration prior to my June 10, 2009 phone call with Mr. Walpin about the President's decision to remove him from office. On May 20, 2009, the Chair of the CNCS Board, Alan Solomont, notified the White House that the Board had serious concerns about Mr. Walpin's performance. I personally spoke with Mr. Solomont and obtained his independent recollection of the events of the May 20 Board meeting. To be clear, at that time, CNCS Board Members did not express to the White House, verbally or otherwise, unanimous support for the removal of Mr. Walpin. I believe that, on or about June 8 or 9, 2009, White House personnel also communicated with a Republican Board member, Vice-Chair Goldsmith. I do not recall any other conversations with Board members prior to the removal.

Thanks again for seeing me and for allowing me to convey my apology in connection with my June 17, 2009 meeting with Congressional staff. It is now my understanding that I answered a few of the questions inaccurately, although at the time I thought they were accurate. Of course, it was not my intent to mislead staff in any way, but to the extent that I was unclear in my responses, or that my declining to answer questions created confusion, I regret it and I sincerely apologize. I have tremendous respect for the role that you and your staff have played in supporting the Inspector General community. I look forward to working with you in the future on items of mutual interest.

Sincerely yours,

