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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

June 13, 2013

Ms. Huma Abedin  
c/o Teneo Holdings  
601 Lexington Ave, 45th Floor  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Ms. Abedin:

It has been reported that while serving as State Department Deputy Chief of Staff, you altered your employment status to become a “special government employee.”

According to news reports, this allowed you to work “as [a] part-time consultant” with the State Department while being “allowed to represent outside clients.”<sup>1</sup>

This arrangement continued until your resignation from the agency on February 1, 2013.<sup>2</sup> While employed by the State Department, you represented clients including among other entities, Teneo, a global strategic consulting firm.<sup>3</sup>

Teneo describes itself as a company that “brings together the disciplines of government and public affairs, investor and public relations and investment banking advisory in an integrated approach that allows us to provide clients with unparalleled strategic counsel and operational support.”<sup>4</sup> It also describes itself as, “The next chapter in strategic advisory.”<sup>5</sup>

It appears that Teneo may have compensated you for gathering information from government sources for the purpose of informing investment decisions of your clients—or in other words, political intelligence.

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<sup>1</sup> Maggie Haberman; “Huma Abedin allowed to represent clients while at State”; Politico.

<sup>2</sup> Josh Margolin; “Huma in job hunt”; New York Post.

<sup>3</sup> Maggie Haberman; “Huma Abedin allowed to represent clients while at State”; Politico; Raymond Hernandez; “Weiner’s wife didn’t disclose consulting work she did while serving in State Dept” New York Times.

<sup>4</sup> Teneo, <http://teneoholdings.com/pages/businesses>.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at <http://teneoholdings.com/pages/about-us>.

It has been reported that you earned as much as \$355,000 from consulting contracts while still being paid \$135,000 by the taxpayer for a job in the State Department. I am concerned that the “special government employee” designation blurs the line between public and private sector employees, especially when employees receive full-time salaries for what appears to be part-time work.

To address these concerns, please provide answers to the following questions:

1. What was your official title at the Department of State from June 2012 until February 2013?
2. When was your status changed to “special government employee”?
3. What were your official duties as Deputy Chief of Staff? And “special government employee”?
4. Who authorized the change in status in your official title?
5. Who was made aware of the change in status?
6. What is the procedure in making such a change in title?
7. Who in the Department was aware of your consulting activities?
8. Please provide all State Department ethics office correspondence you received allowing you operate as a special government employee and retain private clients.
9. In what ways did the Department interact with the companies for which you consulted?
10. Please provide all documents and/or communications between the Department of State and Teneo, and any client or entities they represent.
11. Please provide all contracts pertaining to your consulting activities from June 2012 to February 2013.
12. How much were you compensated for outside consulting while you were employed at the State Department?

13. Did you serve as a consultant to entities outside of the Department prior to June 2012? If so, please provide all documents pertaining to those consulting activities.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter. Please respond to these questions by June 27, 2013 and number your answers in accordance with my questions. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Chris Lucas of my staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary