



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

May 21, 2010

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Issa:

This responds to your letter, dated April 21, 2010, requesting that the Attorney General appoint a special prosecutor to investigate an alleged offer from White House officials to Congressman Joseph Sestak of a federal position in return for his withdrawal from Pennsylvania's 2010 Democratic primary for the United States Senate.

We assure you that the Department of Justice takes very seriously allegations of criminal conduct by public officials. All such matters are reviewed carefully by career prosecutors and law enforcement agents, and appropriate action, if warranted, is taken.

You have asked that a special counsel be appointed to handle the investigation of this matter. The Special Counsel regulations, 28 C.F.R. § 600.1, which were designed as a replacement for the former Independent Counsel Act, provide the Attorney General with discretion to appoint a Special Counsel when an investigation or prosecution by the Department of Justice would create a potential conflict of interest, or in other extraordinary circumstances such that the public interest would be served by such an appointment. The Department of Justice, however, has a long history of handling investigations of high level officials professionally and independently, without the need to appoint a special counsel.

We trust this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may be of assistance with this, or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ronald Weich".

Ronald Weich  
Assistant Attorney General