

June 23, 2009

Via Federal Express

Hon. Joseph I. Lieberman, Chairman
Hon. Susan M. Collins, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
340 Dirkson Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

Hon. Max Baucus, Chairman
Hon. Charles Grassley, Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Hon. Edolphus Towns, Chairman
Hon. Darrell Issa, Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Gregory B. Craig, Esq.
Counsel to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Inspector General Gerald Walpin

Dear Chairman Lieberman, Senator Collins, Chairman Baucus,
Senator Grassley, Chairman Towns, Representative Issa and Mr. Craig:

In a letter to Senators Lieberman and Collins, dated June 16, 2009, Norman L. Eisen, Special Counsel to the President, wrote that Gerald Walpin, the Inspector General of the Corporation for National and Community Service, “was confused, disoriented, unable to answer questions” at a May 20 Board meeting.

Hon. Joseph Lieberman
Hon. Susan Collins
Hon. Max Baucus
Hon. Charles Grassley
Hon. Edolphus Towns
Hon. Darrell Issa
Gregory Craig, Esq.

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We have known Gerald Walpin as a leading member of the New York Bar for many years. Many of us have seen him and heard him speak, including at this month's meeting of the Second Circuit Judicial Conference and last week's meeting of the Board of the Federal Bar Council.

We have never seen Mr. Walpin to be "confused, disoriented [or] unable to answer questions." While none of us was present at the meeting referred to in Mr. Eisen's letter, we can report only that such an allegation is totally inconsistent with our personal knowledge of Mr. Walpin who has always, through the present day, exhibited a quick mind and a command of the facts (whether we agree with him or not) and eloquence – essentially the opposite of someone who is "confused, disoriented, unable to answer questions."

We note that the signers of this letter include both Republicans and Democrats, voters for President Obama and Senator McCain, and many who do not agree with Mr. Walpin's personal political views. But all of us are unanimous in affirming Mr. Walpin's integrity and competence.

THE FOLLOWING HAVE AUTHORIZED THE USE OF THEIR NAMES AS
SIGNATORIES OF THIS LETTER:

Hon. Joseph Lieberman
Hon. Susan Collins
Hon. Max Baucus
Hon. Charles Grassley
Hon. Edolphus Towns
Hon. Darrell Issa
Gregory Craig, Esq.

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ELIHU INSELBUCH
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GREGORY P. JOSEPH
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MARTIN NUSSBAUM
OTTO OBERMAIER
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Gregory Craig, Esq.

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