

**RUSH HOLT**  
Twelfth District, New Jersey

1019 Longworth Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-5801  
Fax 202-225-6025

50 Washington Road  
West Windsor, NJ 08550  
609-750-9365  
Fax 609-750-0618

website and e-mail:  
[www.house.gov/rholt](http://www.house.gov/rholt)



## Congress of the United States

October 2, 2006

Committee on Education  
and the Workforce

Permanent Select Committee  
on Intelligence  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Intelligence Policy

Co-Chair  
Children's Environmental Health Caucus  
Member  
Congressional Arts Caucus  
Internet Caucus  
Law Enforcement Caucus  
Historic Preservation Caucus

Eleni P. Kalisch  
Assistant Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
J. Edgar Hoover Building of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Assistant Director Kalisch:

Last week, your office responded to my September 27, 2006, letter regarding the status of the 2001 anthrax bioterrorism attacks that paralyzed our nation. While I appreciated your prompt reply, it did not sufficiently address my concerns.

You indicated that a copy of my letter was not provided to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I want to assure you that a copy of the letter was sent by facsimile to the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Legislative Affairs before the start of the business day on September 27, 2006. (If you would like a copy of the fax confirmation page, I can provide it to you.) I am sorry to learn that the letter was not promptly made available to Director Mueller or you.

While you assert that significant progress has been made in solving the 2001 anthrax attacks, your letter provided me with no new information. In fact, your letter recited information that was contained in my original letter. I am fully aware of the broad scope of the anthrax investigation. My concern is not the lack of resources and attention this matter has received, but the overall direction of the investigation.

Your letter indicated that complex investigations, such as the Centennial Park bombing case in Atlanta, often take years to resolve. With all due respect, I would not hold out the Centennial Park bombing as a model investigation. In that investigation the FBI wrongly focused its attention on a small pool of suspects. I fear that the same could be happening with the anthrax investigation. Citing Centennial Park as a successful model suggests to me that the time and resources wasted by narrowing one's scope too early is underappreciated by your office.

As you know, my interest in this matter is both professional and deeply personal. The attacks originated from a postal box in my Central New Jersey congressional district, and they disrupted the lives and livelihood of my constituents. For months, Central New Jersey residents lived in fear of a future attack and the possibility of receiving cross-contaminated mail. Mail service was delayed and businesses in my district lost millions. Further, my own Congressional office in Washington, D.C., was shut down after it was found to be contaminated with anthrax.

Additionally, as the only Member of Congress from New Jersey to sit on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I have followed the FBI's response to this terrorist attack closely. As you noted, the FBI provided me with briefings about the anthrax investigation on June 5, 2002, August 1, 2002, and April 1, 2003. By your own admission, it has been more than three and half years since you last briefed me in detail on this investigation. This is unacceptable, particularly given the scope and progress that you report has been made.

As I wrote in my initial letter, I appreciate that this is an on-going criminal investigation. I want to do nothing that would jeopardize its successful prosecution. That is why I have asked for you to provide the Intelligence Committee with a classified briefing on the status of the investigation, and why I am reiterating that request today. Only a closed-door, classified briefing will allow the questions about the progress of this important investigation to be asked without risking disclosure of sensitive information.

Your claim that briefing me or other members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence would "not be appropriate nor consistent with [the FBI's] long-standing policy on pending matters" is baffling. For one, you have provided such briefings in the past, as you noted. Second, providing effective oversight of this investigation falls squarely within the purview of the Intelligence Committee. According to the House Rules, oversight of the FBI on this matter is clearly within the scope of the Intelligence Committee. (See Rules of the House of Representatives: Rule 5 § 11(i)(6) )

There is another audience that also deserves your attention: the public. For years, their only information about this matter has come from news reports, the accuracy of which you call into question. As such, I ask that you or your designee come to my Congressional District in New Jersey to provide an unclassified update on the status of the investigation. I would like to organize such a meeting with postal workers in particular, as they were on the front lines of this bioterrorism attack and are owed an update. I propose that we invite the US Postal Service to make a presentation as well, and open the meeting to the general public.

I look forward to hearing back from you in a timely manner about both of these items, and I stand ready to provide you with any additional support from Congress that you need to reach a successful conclusion.

Sincerely



RUSH HOLT  
Member of Congress

Cc: FBI Director Mueller