



U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

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The Special Counsel

July 24, 2014

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Cummings:

This letter responds to your July 23, 2014, request for additional information on the White House Office of Political Strategy and Outreach (OPSO). I thank you for your interest in the Office of Special Counsel (OSC), and our views on this important issue.

As noted in the written testimony I prepared for the Committee's July 16, 2014 hearing, OSC received and reviewed copies of correspondence between Chairman Issa and the White House concerning the establishment of OPSO. Based on our review of this correspondence, it appears that the White House adhered to OSC guidance in determining the scope of activity for OPSO. To the extent that OPSO's activities are limited to those described in the White House correspondence, OPSO appears to be operating in a manner that is consistent with Hatch Act restrictions.

In response to your specific questions, OSC has not received any allegations that Assistant to the President David Simas or anyone in OPSO has violated the Hatch Act. Additionally, I have no reason to believe that OPSO's activities exceed those set forth in formal communications between White House lawyers and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. However, if OSC is presented with credible evidence that indicates a violation, OSC would initiate an investigation to determine if any activity exceeds permissible Hatch Act boundaries.

I thank you again for your interest in OSC's enforcement of the Hatch Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn N. Lerner".

Carolyn N. Lerner

cc: The Honorable Darrell E. Issa, Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives