

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington

October 27, 2003

Select Committee on Ethics
U.S. Senate
Room 220 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: Request for Investigation into Conduct of Senator Ted Stevens

Dear Chairman Voinovich and Vice Chairman Reid:

As a concerned citizen and Executive Director of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a non-profit, non-partisan organization, I request that you begin an investigation to determine whether Senator Ted Stevens committed a violation of the Senate Rules of Conduct.

It appears that Senator Stevens may have committed a violation of paragraph 1 of Rule 37 which states:

A member, officer, or employee of the Senate shall not receive any compensation, nor shall he permit any compensation to accrue to his beneficial interest from any source, the receipt or accrual of which would occur by virtue of influence improperly exerted from his position as a Member, officer, or employee.

According to the Senate Rules, this provision was intended “as a broad prohibition against members, officers, or employees deriving financial benefit, directly or indirectly, from the use of their official positions.”

Senator Stevens may have violated this rule by illegally providing legislative favors in exchange for campaign contributions from the Boeing Corporation. Senator Stevens, as the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, inserted language into a Department of Defense appropriations bill conference report authorizing a deal under which Boeing would receive between 21 and 25 billion dollars in return for producing 100 refueling tankers based on its 767 model airliner, which it would then lease to the Air Force.

This provision, which bypassed the regular Committee process, has been very controversial. Opponents of the provision, including the Office of Management and Budget, point out that this is an economically unsound deal for the government and that it has bypassed the normal legislative and procurement processes, which are intended to ensure that government contracts meet certain requirements. Boeing, however, is a very large campaign donor, and this may well have influenced its ability to gain such a lucrative contract at the American taxpayers' expense.

According to today's *Washington Post*, approximately one month before he inserted the Boeing language into the conference report, Senator Stevens received \$21,900 in donations from 31 Boeing executives in Seattle. Thirty of those executives had not previously donated money to Senator Stevens within the past ten years.

Senate Ethics Committee
October 27, 2003
Page Two

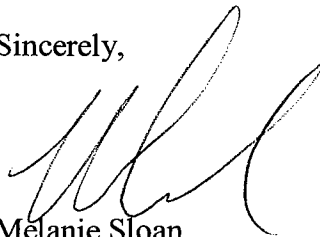
The manner in which Senator Stevens inserted the language into the bill is suspicious in and of itself. When combined with the fact that large donations were made by Boeing executives who had never previously donated money to the Senator only one month before he inserted the Boeing language, the issue becomes one for this Committee to consider.

If Senator Stevens did, in fact, receive political donations from Boeing in return for his support of a very expensive leasing deal under which Boeing stands to earn billions of dollars, he may have violated 18 U.S.C. § 201(b)(2)(A), a bribery statute prohibiting a public official from, "directly or indirectly," seeking, receiving, accepting, or agreeing to receive anything of value personally or for any other person or entity in return for being influenced in the performance of an official act.

Such conduct, even if not in violation of federal law, clearly creates the appearance that wealthy donors can gain legislative favors denied to the general citizenry. Therefore, I request that the Select Committee on Ethics investigate this matter to see if Senator Stevens has violated the Senate Code of Conduct.

As of November 1, 2003, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington is moving. Our new address will be 11 DuPont Circle, N.W., 2nd Floor, Washington, D.C. 20036, and the telephone number will be 202-588-5565. If I can be of any further service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', written in a cursive style.

Melanie Sloan
Executive Director