May 23, 2007

The Honorable Pete Domenici
U.S. Senator
328 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Domenici:

In testimony before the House Judiciary Committee today, Monica Goodling, the former White House liaison at the Department of Justice, admitted that she inappropriately took political considerations into account when considering personnel decisions at the Department of Justice. Ms. Goodling's candor, while refreshing, was also disturbing, and raises new questions about your role in the firing of former U.S. Attorney David Iglesias.

In hand-written notes Goodling made in February 2007 that were turned over to the committee and released publicly, Goodling described Iglesias as "in over [his] head," and writes that "Domenici says he doesn't move cases." Those notes, made after your infamous October 2006 call to Iglesias and your three calls to the Attorney General clearly confirm your involvement in this sordid affair, but they again leave many questions unanswered – the very questions you have refused to answer publicly.

On March 9, you said that you did not remember whether you called White House advisor Karl Rove to urge Iglesias' firing. Your repeated reliance on a faulty memory defense seems convenient at best – even if you have forgotten the exact details of a phone call, there is no doubt that your staff would remember such an event and would likely have kept records of it. The same holds true for any conversations with Ms. Goodling, who seems to have filled the role of the advisor in the Department of Justice carrying out the wishes of the White House political department, and by extension, your wishes.

This scandal has quickly spun into an indictment of the entire Department of Justice and its ability to fairly administer the nation's laws, and you stand squarely in the middle of the vortex. There is no longer any doubt that you were singularly responsible for Mr. Iglesias' firing – the only thing still in question is the manner in which you secured that firing and whether you crossed any ethical or legal lines in the process.

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