



**Joan Claybrook, President**

June 17, 2003

The Honorable Joel Hefley, Chairman  
The Honorable Howard L. Berman, Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct  
HT-2, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Possible Violations of Code of Official Conduct  
U.S. Representative Tom DeLay (R-Texas)  
U.S. Representative W.J. "Billy" Tauzin (R-La.)  
U.S. Representative Joe Barton (R-Texas)

Dear Chairman Hefley and Ranking Minority Member Berman:

We are writing to inform you of possible violations of federal law, specifically 18 U.S.C. § 201(b)(2), as well as of U.S. House Rule XLIII, Code of Official Conduct, Section 3, by the above-named Members of Congress.

We believe that the events described in the attached Chronology evidence the possibility that Representatives DeLay, Tauzin and Barton may have violated the official U.S. House Code of Official Conduct, specifically Section 3, which reads: "A Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives shall receive no compensation nor shall he permit any compensation to accrue to his beneficial interest from any source, the receipt of which would occur by virtue of influence improperly exerted from this position in the Congress." It is also possible that the above-named Members of Congress may have violated federal law governing undue influence over congressional actions.

Although Public Citizen has no official standing to submit a complaint before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (H. RES. 230 – approved by the House in September 1997 – ended the long-standing ability of citizens to file ethics complaints against Members of the House), we understand that the Committee may initiate its own proceedings when it deems appropriate. Thus, we call these matters to the Committee's attention and respectfully request that it initiate a proceeding to investigate all ethical questions arising from the events set forth in the attached Chronology.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joan Claybrook, President  
Public Citizen

Tyson Slocum, Research Director  
Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy Program

Attachments

**Ralph Nader, Founder**

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