Morris, Alexander

From: FOIA-Central@hq.doe.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2009 12:38 AM
To: FOIA-Central
Subject: DOE Headquarters FOIA Request

Name: Silla Brush

Organization: The Hill

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NEWS MEDIA

Record Description:

March 21, 2009

FOIA Officer
Department of Energy
Washington, DC

Dear FOIA Officer:

This is a request under the Federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, the common law of the United States, the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C.) section 552a, and any statute providing for public access to government information:

I request that I be sent copies of the following documents or, if there is a large number, be permitted to inspect the following documents:

1. Any and all congressional correspondence since Feb. 17, 2009 relating to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 1) that includes letters of Congress.

2. A copy of any and all log(s) of correspondences that include letters from members of Congress from Feb. 17, 2009 through the present day for your agency. The log(s) should detail the correspondence's control number, the date it was received, who sent it, what office or organization they were representing, and the subject of the request. If these logs or records exist electronically, please make us a copy of the data instead of paper copies.

If possible, I would prefer to receive the largest number of records or documents in electronic form.

I am filing this FOIA request as a "representative of the news media" since I am a reporter for The Hill newspaper. This designation entitles me to a waiver of fees accumulated during the actual search and review process. However, if your agency does determine that I should be charged for any part of this request, please contact me before any searches reach an estimate cost of $25.

Now published four times a week, The Hill delivers solid, non-partisan and objective reporting on the business of Washington, covering the inner-workings of Congress, as well

FOIA-2009-000204

Sheila

as the nexus between politics and business. For more information about The Hill, please refer to www.thehill.com .

In reference to our request I have provided the following information addressing the points listed in the Department of Justice's FOIA Guide, 2002 Edition: Fees and Fee Waivers, as found online at http://www.usdoj.gov/oip/fees.htm .

1. The content from these documents "is likely to contribute" to the understanding of your agency to the common reader. Our reporting would not be possible without the specific content garnered by the release of the requested information. Prior to any action on this FOIA request, this information is not in the public domain.

2. Due to the nature of our organization, The Hill, the disclosure under our FOIA request will "contribute to the understanding of the public at large." The information will be printed in our newspaper, The Hill, and on our website, www.thehill.com, and will be read by a large number of people. The newspaper's current circulation is 21,000 and is read by members of Congress, Capitol Hill staff members, executive branch officials, lobbyists and interest groups in the Washington. We expect the information produced through this and other FOIA requests to serve as the basis for several articles that explain the actions and operations of government to the general public.

3. Reporters at The Hill newspaper also possess the skills necessary to process the requested information. We write articles for print and online publication. Other members of the media consider us to be a news organization of high standing as evidenced by our numerous awards over the years. Additionally, many federal agencies have deemed The Hill to be a news media outlet for FOIA requests.

4. The disclosures we requested through the Freedom of Information Act do not primarily serve any "commercial interest." Any data derived from our request will be used primarily to educate the public and will be distributed freely. As described in section (3), we represent the news media and plan to distribute this information to the public.

As I am sure you are aware, the Freedom of Information Act requires that if part of a record is exempt from disclosure, you must redact and release all segregated parts. Please describe the deleted material in detail and specify the reasons for believing that the alleged statutory justification applies in this instance.

I look forward to your decision on our fee waiver request, and on granting or denying our request within 20 days as outlined by the statute. Do contact me by telephone or e-mail if you have any questions regarding this request or recommendations on how to streamline or revise it. If my request is denied in whole or in part, please specify which exemption(s) is (are) claimed for each passage or whole document denied. In addition, please give the number of pages in each document and the total number of pages pertaining to this request and the dates of the documents withheld. Please provide copies of any logs, internal tracking numbers or other file-tracking device or system of documents in existence but denied disclosure. Such statements will be helpful in deciding whether to appeal an adverse determination.

I appreciate your attention to this and expect, as the FOIA provides, to hear from your office within 20 days. If you have any questions about the nature or scope of this request, please call me at
202-628-8522

Sincerely,

Silla Brush
Reporter, Business & Lobbying
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Preferred Form or Format: electronic

Type of Requester (if provided):

A representative of the news media affiliated with The Hill and the request is made as part of news gathering and not for commercial use.

Type of Media (if provided):

Newspaper

Fees and Fee Waivers:

I request a waiver or reduction of fees.

Waiver or Reduction of Fees Factors (if provided):

Expedited Processing:

Specific Justification for Expedited Processing: