Morris, Alexander

From: FOIA-Central@hq.doe.gov
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2009 2:44 PM
To: FOIA-Central
Subject: DOE Headquarters FOIA Request

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Record Description:

Please provide me with copies, in electronic format if available, of the correspondence logs for all communications between members of Congress and your Department, from July 1, 2008 until present.

Preferred Form or Format: Electronic

Type of Requester (if provided):

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

Type of Media (if provided):

Other: Online organization

Fees and Fee Waivers:

I request a waiver or reduction of fees.

Waiver or Reduction of Fees Factors (if provided):

1. The subject of the request: Whether the subject of the requested records concerns "the operations or activities of the government."

My request falls within this category. ProPublica's mission is to do public interest journalism, and we are particularly interested in the functions of government. The purpose of this request is to learn what sorts of communications have occurred between two branches of government.

2. The informative value of the information to be disclosed: Whether the disclosure is "likely to contribute" to an understanding of government operations or activities.

These logs provide a glimpse into the workings of government.

3. The contribution to an understanding by the general public of the subject likely to result from disclosure, taking into account your ability and intent to disseminate the information to the public in a form that can further understanding of the subject matter.

FOIA-2009-000540

Sheila

The information will be presented to the general public through publication on our web site, and possibly through a publication partnership with another news outlet.

4. The significance of the contribution to public understanding: Whether the disclosure is likely to contribute "significantly" to public understanding of government operations or activities.

In some instances, communication logs have indicated questionable relationships between members of Congress and certain entities, such as corporations. In rare cases, communication logs can illuminate abuse of power. The possibility of these relationships is a matter of significant public interest.

5. The existence and magnitude of a commercial interest: Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure, and, if so

There is no commercial interest.

6. The primary interest in disclosure: Whether the magnitude of the identified commercial interest of the requester is sufficiently large, in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, that disclosure is "primarily in the commercial interest of the requester."

There is no commerical interest.

Expedited Processing:

Specific Justification for Expedited Processing: