

# THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY

September 10, 2002

Andrea E. Fowler  
FOIA/PA Coordinator  
Department of Agriculture  
Room 532A, Whitten Building  
Washington, DC20250-1300

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Dear Andrea E. Fowler,

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:

All documents of correspondences and meetings between any members of Congress and their staffs and your agency dated after August 1992 until the present. By correspondences, I mean letters, e-mails, sign-in sheets and meeting notes that are dated after August of 1992.

If all or some portion of my request is denied, please list the specific exemptions which are being claimed to withhold information. If you determine that some portions of the requested material are exempt, I will expect, as the Act provides, that you will provide me with the remaining non-exempt portions. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal any decision to withhold information and expect that you will list the address and office where such an appeal can be sent.

As you know, the amended FOIA permits you to reduce or waive search and/or copying fees when release of the requested information would be "in the public interest." The organization that I represent, the Center for Public Integrity, is a non-profit organization that publishes newsworthy information and I request this information for the purpose of newsgathering, not commercial use. For this reason I believe that this request clearly falls into the distinction of "in the public interest" and I ask that these fees be waved.

I appreciate your attention to this and expect, as the FOIA provides, to hear from your office within ten days. If you have any questions about the nature or scope of this request, please call me at: 202-466-1300 ext. 151.

Sincerely,

Alex Knott  
Reporter for the Center for Public Integrity  
910 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20006