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February 4, 2005

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST**

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Miriam McD. Miller

Office of the Solicitor, Room N-2428

200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20210

Re: FOIA Request by Accuracy in Media, Inc.

Dear FOIA Officer:

This is a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request under 5 U.S.C. 552. I am Roger Aronoff, Media Analyst & Executive Secretary for Accuracy in Media, Inc. ("AIM"), and make this FOIA request on AIM's behalf.

FOIA Request

AIM requests copies of all records made between January 1, 1990, and February 7, 2005, of your agency's (or your component of your agency's) payment, or obligation to pay:

1. persons who are representatives of the news media;
2. news media entities;
3. public relations firms;
4. non-profit organizations; and
5. non-profit organizations which have published (by any type of broadcast, written article, editorial, etc.) information about any aspect of the operation of your agency, including any of its plans, proposals, acts, procedures, or functions.

This Request includes contracts, ledgers, and transmittal records, etc., to persons and entities or their agents or intermediaries, including grants or payment to organizations whether profit or non-profit, including non-governmental organizations ("NGO's").

This FOIA request reasonably describes the records sought. For items numbered 1 and 2 above, the following definitions apply:

- a. a "news media representative" is defined as an individual who has actively submitted to, or disseminated for, a news media entity, whether it be full-time or part-time, or consistently or periodically, and includes commentators, columnists, pundits, independent writers, freelance journalists, filmmakers, and broadcasters.
- b. a "news media entity" is defined by having actively gathered news to disseminate to the public. News media entities are not limited to newspapers and magazines and television and radio stations broadcasting to the public at large, but also include publishers of periodicals and other media who make their news products available for purchase or subscription to the general public.
- c. "news" is defined as information that is about current events or that would be of current interest to the general public or to segments of the general public.

#### Fee waiver requests

AIM has been reporting and analyzing news media reporting for more than 35 years. Its semi-monthly newsletter, *The AIM Report*, has gone out without fail for 32 years. *The AIM Report* now has about 3,300 subscribers. Oftentimes newspapers and websites around the country have picked up *The AIM Report's* stories. AIM's other publications include AIM columns, *The AIM Report*, Briefings (opinions), Special Reports, and Guest Columns. AIM delivers a daily radio commentary, Media Monitor, carried across the country.

AIM analyzes reporting of stories in, and about, the media, including botched and misreported stories, and uncorrected errors. AIM's goal is to encourage members of the media to report the news fairly and objectively – without resorting to bias or partisanship, and to correct their errors.

More than 100,000 unique visitors visit our website nearly every month. AIM has an active speaker's bureau, providing speakers on relevant topics to various groups around the country.

AIM's principals have published three books on the subject of the news media: Media Mischief and Misdeeds 1984; Profiles in Deception 1990; News Manipulators 1993. AIM has also produced several nationally distributed documentaries, including Television's Vietnam, The Clinton Legacy, TWA 800: The Search for the Truth, and Confronting Iraq.

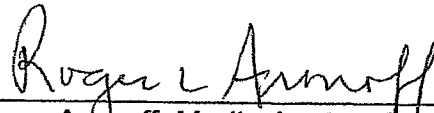
Due to its many efforts; AIM enjoys a broad public audience. Upon disclosure of the records sought, AIM can, and will, make the information public. Disclosure will help create a greater understanding of the relationship between government policy, journalists, public relations firms, and non-profit organizations. The public interest of contributing to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government is clear. The subject of the requested records concerns the operations or activities of the government, the records' connection to these government activities is not remote or attenuated, disclosure is likely to contribute to an understanding of government operations or activities, and the records are not already in the public domain.

AIM is entitled to status as "representatives of the news media" and thus cannot be charged search or review fees under 5 U.S.C. 552 (a)(4)(A)(ii)(II). AIM intends to disseminate information derived from this request to the public, and, accordingly, seeks waiver of copying costs under 5 U.S.C. 552 (a)(4)(a)(iii).

Thank you.

ACCURACY IN MEDIA, INC.

By:



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Roger Aronoff, Media Analyst & Executive Secretary