



JUN 03 2011

Mr. Nathan Paul Mehrens
Counsel
Americans for Limited Government
9900 Main Street
Suite 303
Fairfax, VA 22031

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request Acknowledgement - Tracking No. 639720

Dear Mr. Mehrens:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your March 9, 2011, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Your request has been assigned Tracking Number 639720. Please refer to this number in any future correspondence relative to your Freedom of Information Act request.

You specifically requested the following:

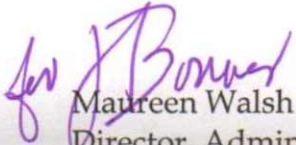
- (1) Copies of all contracts between the Department and outside legal counsel;
 - (A) Copies of all correspondence between the Department and outside legal counsel regarding the performance of legal work for the Department, excluding privileged attorney work product;
- (2) Copies of all contracts between the Department and contractors who have been engaged to work on regulatory issues including rule writing; and
 - (B) Copies of all correspondence between the Department and contractors regarding the performance of such contracts.

You also indicated that you are seeking all such documents that were created between January 20, 2009 and the present. We estimate that you will receive a response within 20 days of this letter.

Please note that FOIA applies to existing records and does not require agencies to conduct research or generate documents based on that research. The FOIA requires that agencies generally disclose records unless agencies are required to withhold requested records, either in whole or part due to one or more of the nine established exemptions.

Pursuant to 29 CFR Section 70.19(e), you may be responsible for certain fees associated with gathering the information you have requested. For information about FOIA practices and procedures, please visit our website at www.msha.gov or visit the DOL website at www.dol.gov.

Sincerely,



Maureen Walsh
Director, Administration and Management