

THAD COCHRAN, MISSISSIPPI, CHAIRMAN

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI
MITCH McCONNELL, KENTUCKY
CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA
RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALABAMA
JUDD GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
LARRY CRAIG, IDAHO
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, TEXAS
MIKE DeWINE, OHIO
SAM BROWNBACK, KANSAS
WAYNE ALLARD, COLORADO

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND
HARRY REID, NEVADA
HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
BYRON L. DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
TIM JOHNSON, SOUTH DAKOTA
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025

<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
TERRENCE E. SAUVAIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

May 10, 2006

The Honorable Alphonso Jackson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

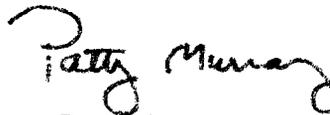
Dear Secretary Jackson:

I write to express my outrage at your recent comments in Dallas before the forum convened by the Real Estate Executive Council. If true, your comments, as reported in the *Dallas Business Journal* reveal blatantly illegal conduct on your part – conduct that merits the consideration of prosecution. Even if your words were not true, they send out a deliberately chilling message to current and future competitors for HUD grants and contracts that “only Republicans need apply.” Such comments are grossly unprofessional, especially coming from the head of an agency charged with bolstering and enforcing the concept of equal opportunity.

I have asked the HUD Inspector General to investigate this incident. I have also asked the IG to review whether your deliberate dissemination of such a message, in and of itself, represents a violation of law or regulation. It is outrageous that some five days after your comments became public, you have not issued either a recantation or apology. It appears that you are quite content to let stand your message that contractors at your agency had better be political supporters of the President if they hope to compete successfully for HUD funds. That may sit well with your personal political agenda, but it is not behavior consistent with a public servant sworn to uphold the laws of our nation.

Your statements in Dallas and your subsequent actions are, in my view, inexcusable.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury,
the Judiciary, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies