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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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May 15, 2013

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The Honorable Thomas R. Pickering
Vice Chair
Hills & Company
1120 Twentieth Street NW
Second Floor, North Building
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ambassador Pickering:

On May 13, 2013, I requested that you appear for a transcribed interview with Committee investigators and a subsequent public hearing to discuss your work on the State Department's Accountability Review Board. In a response dated May 14, 2013, you stated "I am writing to inform you that Admiral Michael Mullen, the Board's Vice Chair, and I would welcome the opportunity to testify publicly before the Committee and to answer any questions you might have."¹ I appreciate your willingness to testify publicly. However, your response failed to indicate your willingness to appear for a transcribed interview.

As mentioned in my May 13, 2013, request for you to answer questions from Committee investigators, when you and I spoke on Sunday after *Meet the Press*, you agreed to sit for a transcribed interview as an important preliminary step before a public hearing. On Monday, the *Washington Times* reported that you also stated in a recent interview, "I am happy to do whatever I can to explain our work to the committee."² Your transcribed testimony will allow Members of the Committee to ask informed questions during a subsequent hearing. If you are no longer willing to voluntarily appear for a transcribed interview, please let me know as soon as possible.

¹ Letter from Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering to Darrell Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Government Reform (May 14, 2013).

² Shaun Waterman, WASH. TIMES, "GOP seeks more information on Benghazi from accountability investigators" (May 13, 2013) available at, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/may/13/gop-seeks-more-information-on-benghazi-from-account/>.

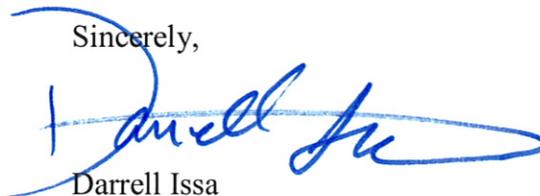
Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering

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Please contact Brien Beattie or John Ohly of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074 with any questions. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darrell Issa", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Darrell Issa
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member