

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 11, 2004

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch, Chairman  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

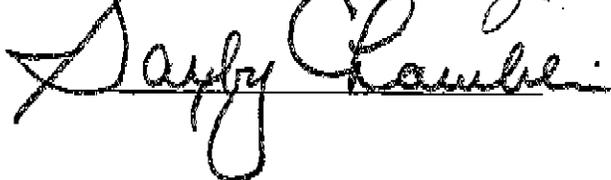
Dear Chairman Hatch:

A week has passed since the public release of the REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION INTO IMPROPER ACCESS TO THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE'S COMPUTER SYSTEM (Mar. 4, 2004) prepared by the Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate. The Sergeant at Arms' report sets forth in great detail factual findings regarding the improper access of computer files belonging to Democratic staff members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary (the committee) by two former Republican committee staff members. As explained in the Sergeant at Arms' report, this investigation was initiated in November of last year, shortly after the Wall Street Journal and Washington Times printed articles in which they acknowledged receipt of Democratic staff memoranda.

While it is not our place as members of the committee to decide whether any of the acts described in the Sergeant at Arms' report constitute criminal violations of Federal law, we nevertheless are convinced that this is a very serious matter that needs to be reviewed and considered by the proper authorities at the earliest opportunity. As you know, our goal has always been to approach this investigation in the least politicized manner possible. We had hoped that the committee would debate the proper course of action and arrive at a bipartisan agreement on how to proceed with the information revealed in the Sergeant at Arms' report. However, we are now certain that only a determination by a professional prosecutor as to whether any laws were violated will bring this matter to a just and timely resolution. We commend your commitment to a thorough investigation of this matter as it affects the very integrity of our committee.

Sincerely,

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_