

bankrupted ourselves in this senseless oil war in Iraq. We need to understand that we need to get off of fossil fuels.

We can and we have to do better. The country needs strong leadership and I have watched you, you are a person of integrity. You can give us the leadership, even though it will not be the party line. I pray you have the courage to make a difference.

The American public deserves a choice to our energy needs and tax incentives for solar and wind energy for our homes, will take us in that direction. I know this is not consistent with the Big Business energy and automobile business model, but I think they do not see the wisdom of making hard changes, tough choices and creating our own energy future.

The whole period of deregulation we have just gone through has not been healthy for our country. Deregulation, from Enron to sub-prime lending is bankrupting our country. For the past 60 years the housing market has been stable and predictable. Deregulation has been regulation for the wealthy and well-positioned. We cannot continue to steal the hope for the middle class on the back of the rich.

There have been two major fallacies foisted on the American public. One is that tax cuts will stimulate jobs and drilling oil will reduce gas prices. The wealthy citizens of our country and the oil companies can be multi-national citizens and their allegiances are to their own wealth accumulation, just a factor of human nature.

We do not have nationalized oil, therefore oil drilling will benefit the oil companies and the highest bidders in the world market, yet the American public is led to believe, oil drilling will have an appreciable impact on our local gas prices, but indeed the nations with more wealth, able to bid and buy the commodity will benefit. We are a debtor nation, unlike China. Producing our own source of energy is critical to changing that reality.

Tax cuts given to the wealthiest of our nation, without a requirement that those tax cuts be re-invested in the USA leaves those individuals the option to take those tax cuts and invest them in the country of their choice, wherever they can get the best return, again leaving the human instinct of wealth accumulation to play out.

If we invest our tax cuts, in our own country and our own energy interests, that will create local high paying jobs, we will be investing in our own future, taking us out of the status of debtor nation.

By the way, I, as well as Warren Buffet, am in the tax bracket that was advantaged by the big tax cuts, and I and Warren Buffet have both felt we would be glad to forego those tax cuts for a strong economy.

Again, I ask that you have the courage to engage with any in congress, in a bipartisan way, who is of a like mind to take us to energy freedom. Jay Inslee the representative from Washington State is a great proponent of energy issues and a person like you, who is a person of integrity. I pray that our representatives in Washington will have the sense of urgency required to take the bold steps needed for the American People.

As well, I might suggest, your staff get the hearing minutes from a Senate hearing held this week on the energy grid where T. Boone Pickens gave testimony where he stated "we cannot drill our way out of our current energy crisis" proposing wind energy as a major part of the solution. It was a very enlightening hearing.

Thank you for your concern for the plight of your constituents.

TIM, Kuna.

As a person living on a fixed income, I find that the soaring costs of energy in all forms

are creating a considerable burden on me. With gas at \$4 per gallon, the cost of everything is sky rocketing.

The U.S. is being held hostage by two bit dictators in the energy market. And it is unnecessary. We are a country that put a man on the moon over forty years ago, yet we have not found ways of using our abundant coal resources in an environmentally safe manner, and I am not seeing anything being done about it. Why?

We spend hundreds of billions on foreign oil imports yet we allow a few vocal nuts to keep us from developing our own resources. We must tap the oil in the Alaska Wildlife Reserve. Contrary to their claims, oil production and wildlife are not incompatible. The noise and bustle of drilling will cause the animals to leave temporarily, after the drillers leave and the pumps and pipelines are in place they will return.

We are often told that the lack of refinery capacity is also a cause of high gas prices. How many new refineries are currently under construction? How many are planned? When was the last completed?

ALFRED, Twin Falls.

I wrote a response to your email about energy yesterday and as I sat here another issue presented itself to me. This is on a community level. My wife and I (with bad forethought) bought The Roxy Theatre in Cascade. I say the above because now many people do not have the extra money to spend seeing movies or plays or concerts. Now after two years, seeing my available credit shrink, and energy costs of my theatre go up, I am looking at hard choices. I have chosen not to hire employees back. This further hurts the overall economy as there are 4 people who now have to find jobs. I have tried, but I cannot find a way to end this bleeding. The power company asked and got two very large rate hikes. Why are we spending almost 2/3 of all the fuel refined in the USA making power for the grids? We have been cut in the heel by a very small but loud group of people who say we should have no more reactors in the USA. Enough—the good of the few do not outweigh the good of the many. We have always been a nation formed on that. From my grandfather to my dad to my service in the military, I know that. I have served for the good of the many. I am still a police officer for the good of the many. It is sure not for the pay. I read bills all of the time that you all are debating on the Hill. I laugh; we spend millions of bucks to help out some performing arts center in New York. I provide the same arts to Americans too. I guess we are too small in Idaho or Cascade, I should say. We could all sit around and cry the blues, but nothing gets done. I put on my uniform 4 days a week and my theatre clothes 7 days a week, 364 days a year. I do this because it is for the good of the many. [I think earmarks should be allowed for projects that provide for the good of the many and my theatre would qualify for assistance.] You, sir, are elected to serve. I hear it just as much as you do. I do not mean that I am your boss. I mean we put you there because we feel you can fix it. I feel, given the responses you have seen, that Idaho's gems have given you the ways to fix the problems you asked about. We have to all give something up. Again, I have not asked you to put me on a spending bill for aid to my 1939 theatre that I am sure will not make it through the year. The small business will not make it that long. When something big happens to this country, everyone asks for federal aid. Major snowstorms happen here, and it is not even reported. Four inches of snow in Florida and every news channel is calling it a disaster. We want this fixed before there is not debate about it. . . It will

be a disaster that no one will have thought could happen. Many politicians say all of the time small business is the backbone of the USA. We are all hurting in this town. We are all getting close to going under. No joke, come up here, I will buy you a movie. I'll show you around like when the mill closed in 2000. We are on the threshold of something very bad. Thanks for your time, I know like me you do not have much to spare.

JASON, Cascade.

PAYMENTS TO RADIO HOST

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, several years ago, I started looking at the financial relationships between physicians and drug companies. I am doing this because I am concerned that there is very little transparency on this issue. I have also learned that the little transparency that does exist is not being enforced or is being enforced inconsistently.

For instance, the National Institutes of Health requires researchers to report outside payments to their institution if they receive a grant from the NIH. But I have learned that some researchers are failing to properly report this money.

Recently, I examined payments from pharmaceutical companies to a professor of psychiatry at the University of Cincinnati. I found out that she was not reporting tens of thousand of dollars in outside income.

I then looked at a group of the world's most prominent child psychiatrists, in particular, three researchers at Harvard who have taken millions of dollars from the drug companies. These doctors are funded by several NIH grants, but they were not reporting all of their money from the drug companies as required by NIH regulations.

I then discovered a department chairman at Stanford who founded a company that was seeking approval from the Food and Drug Administration to market a drug for depression. The NIH is funding some research on this drug which was being led by this same Stanford scientist. Because there were some obvious conflicts with this situation, the NIH recently forced Stanford to pull this professor off the grant.

I also sent letters to the University of Texas and Emory University about researchers at their institutions.

I would now like to discuss another troubling aspect about the lack of financial transparency in medicine.

"The Infinite Mind" is a radio show that is independently produced but runs on over 300 public radio stations. It is possibly the most authoritative program on psychology and neuroscience in America. This show has won over 60 journalism awards. According to a biography of the show's host, it has an audience of over half a million people.

Back in my home State of Iowa, "The Infinite Mind" is broadcast on most Sundays, early in the evening. My guess is that thousands of Iowans tune in. According to its own website, "The Infinite Mind" prides itself on its

"independence." But there may be some problems with their financial transparency.

Last May, a couple of reporters for a news site called "Slate" wrote about an episode of "The Infinite Mind" called Prozac Nation: Revisited. During this episode, three guests on the show discussed problems with antidepressants. After listening to a recording of the show, it appeared to me that the real effect of this particular episode was to undercut any criticism that antidepressants might be linked to an increased risk of suicide. This is an issue I tackled a few years back.

Maybe these three guests felt that there really is no problem with antidepressants. But a large number of experts believe that antidepressants may be associated with an increased risk of suicide, particularly in kids. In fact, last March, two months before this show aired, Britain's Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority MHRA, concluded a 4 year investigation of the antidepressant, Paxil. That report found that GSK had been aware since 1998 that Paxil was associated with a higher risk of suicidal behavior in adolescents.

Now don't get me wrong, experts on public radio have a right to express their own opinions. However, I am concerned that the host of "The Infinite Mind" never pointed out that all three of the show's guests had strong financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

That is right. Every one of them. And this was never mentioned during the program or by the guests who appeared.

What listeners also never learned is that the host of "The Infinite Mind" has his own ties to drugmakers. When a show runs on National Public Radio, NPR, doesn't the public have a right to know where the show's host gets his money?

The host of "The Infinite Mind" is Dr. Frederick Goodwin, who I am told, is one of our country's leading experts on bipolar disorder. In fact, he has written the definitive textbook on bipolar disorder. He is now an adjunct professor at George Washington University Medical Center and was formerly the director of the National Institute of Mental Health.

But what you would never know about Dr. Goodwin is that he is also a paid spokesman for several drug companies. Now, I don't know how much money Dr. Goodwin actually receives from all the drug companies, but based on documents my office has received from GlaxoSmithKline, I do know that GlaxoSmithKline pays him around \$2500 for every talk he gives on treatments for bipolar disorder and depression. These talks concerned several drugs such as Wellbutrin, Eskalith, and Lamictal.

Based on documents that my office received from GlaxoSmithKline, Dr. Goodwin gives these talks to doctor groups around the country. So far this

year, Glaxo reports that the company paid Dr. Goodwin over \$130,000 for over 50 different talks. Of course, Dr. Goodwin may be making more money from other drug companies, but I only asked GlaxoSmithKline for their information. I do know from a scientific paper that Dr. Goodwin published that he has also given talks on behalf of Pfizer, Solvay, Janssen, Eli Lilly, Astra Zeneca and Bristol Myers Squibb. And he has served as a consultant for many of these companies, as well.

In fact, Dr. Goodwin was very busy the week that the episode of Prozac Nation: Revisited started airing last March 26. GlaxoSmithKline's records show that the company paid Dr. Goodwin for several talks he gave that week on bipolar disorder and Lamictal.

In fact, records show that he gave around eight talks at \$2500 each, bringing him around \$20,000 in payments. Several of the talks were done by teleconference, but Dr. Goodwin also spoke about Lamictal at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse in Birmingham, Michigan and the Rosebud Steak House in Schaumburg, IL.

Based upon the information provided to my staff, Dr. Goodwin was also very active on behalf of Glaxo in 2005. That year, Glaxo paid Dr. Goodwin over \$300,000 in speaking fees and around \$25,000 in expenses to discuss their products. And this was the same year that he hosted an episode for "The Infinite Mind" on bipolar disorder in kids. Again there was no disclosure on the show about Dr. Goodwin's financial ties to GlaxoSmithKline or other drug companies.

Let's take this one step further. When an episode on bipolar disorder first aired on September 20, 2005, Dr. Goodwin was once again on the road for the Glaxo. Glaxo's records show that the company paid him \$2500 for a talk he gave that day on drug therapy for bipolar disorder. The talk was at Lemonia, a Tuscan restaurant located at the Ritz Carlton Golf Resort in Naples, FL.

I don't think it takes a journalism or ethics professor to figure out that listeners of a national radio show should be told about the host's financial interests. It just seems obvious. This type of information should be out in the open and transparent.

People should know that since 2000, GlaxoSmithKline has paid the host of a radio program on psychiatry over \$1.2 million in speaking fees and over \$100,000 in expenses. People should know that, based on information from Glaxo, most of these fees were paid to Dr. Goodwin through Best Practice, a pharmaceutical consulting firm that he helped establish in the late nineties. Among the many services that have been offered by Best Practice are marketing consultation, and the "dissemination of new off label information."

Now, I have already pointed out that this independently produced radio show runs on over 300 public radio stations. But it also runs on NPR's satellite sta-

tion. This got the attention of Margaret Low Smith, a vice president at NPR. She has stated that any show that runs on NPR's satellite station, and I quote, "must live up to NPR standards."

So I would like to go over some of those standards as found on NPR's own website. According to NPR's own policies, and I quote, "confidence in us as independent and fair means avoiding actual and apparent conflicts of interest or engaging in outside activities, public comment or writing that calls into question our ability to report fairly on a subject."

The policy also states that an individual covered under this code "has the responsibility to disclose potential conflicts of interest."

I think these are very fair standards on transparency, and I hope that shows running on NPR will try to live up to them in the future.

It is not my job as a Senator to screen newspapers, the evening news or national radio for my constituents. But it is my job to watch out for taxpayers' money. According to its website and promotional comments made during many of the show's episodes, "The Infinite Mind" has been made possible, at times, by major underwriting from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

And that is why I am sending out two letters one to the National Institutes of Health and another to the National Science Foundation.

The recently departed director of NIH has already acknowledged that they have problems with their policies when it comes to researchers not reporting outside income. I commend him for recognizing this fact. I also know that the NIH plans on changing its regulations to tighten up disclosure requirements.

But I am not certain about the disclosure requirements when the NIH helps to fund a show like "The Infinite Mind." I am going to ask the NIH to see if they require "The Infinite Mind" to disclose the money that drug companies pay to the show's host.

And I am asking the NSF to explain their policies on financial disclosure to see if they might need some changes as well.

I ask unanimous consent to have my letters to the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation printed in the RECORD. I would also like to commend GlaxoSmithKline for their cooperation with the Committee and their commitment to transparency. It is greatly appreciated.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,

Washington, DC, November 19, 2008.

RAYNARD S. KINGTON, M.D., Ph.D.,
Acting Director, National Institutes of Health,
Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD.

DEAR ACTING DIRECTOR KINGTON: As a senior member of the United States Senate and the Ranking Member of the Committee on

Finance (Committee), I have a duty under the Constitution to conduct oversight into the actions of executive branch agencies, including the activities of the National Institutes of Health (NIH/Agency). In this capacity, I must ensure that NIH properly fulfills its mission to advance the public's welfare and makes responsible use of the public funding provided for medical studies. This research often forms the basis for action taken by the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Once again I would like to bring to NIH's attention my concerns about the lack of oversight regarding conflicts of interest relating to the almost \$24 billion in annual grants that are distributed by the NIH. I understand that you are now attempting to change the regulations covering the extramural research program to ensure more accountability in financial disclosure. I appreciate your work in this area.

As you know, institutions receiving an NIH research grant are required to manage the grantee's conflicts of interest. I would like now to let you know that I have discovered another problem with an NIH grantee and a lack of financial transparency.

In particular, I am concerned about a radio show that discusses psychology and neuroscience called "The Infinite Mind." This show, as I understand it, is independently produced and is distributed to over 300 public radio stations and appears on National Public Radio's (NPR) satellite channel. According to this show's website and promotional comments made during several of the show's episodes, "The Infinite Mind" claims to receive major underwriting from the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Mental Health.

The host of the "The Infinite Mind" is research professor Dr. Frederick Goodwin. However, I have learned that while hosting this radio program, Dr. Goodwin also received substantial compensation from drug companies. In the fine print of an article he published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 2003, Dr. Goodwin acknowledged that he "has served on the speaker's bureaus of Glaxo, Solvay, Janssen, Pfizer, Lilly, AstraZeneca, and Bristol-Myers Squibb; and has served as a consultant for Glaxo, Solvay, Pfizer, Lilly, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Novartis." For example,

over the last seven years, Dr. Goodwin received over \$1.3 million in speaking fees and honoraria from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) for giving over 480 talks. I discovered this fact through documents that I received from GSK.

I have attached a chart detailing the information that GSK supplied to my staff. Many of the payments to Dr. Goodwin were made through a company called Best Practice LLC (BP). Based upon independent research conducted by my staff, it appears that Dr. Goodwin founded BP along with several other scientists in the late nineties. It is my understanding that BP advises pharmaceutical companies.

As mentioned earlier, when one listens to "The Infinite Mind" there is an acknowledgment that NIH money helps to underwrite its production. Accordingly I would appreciate any information that you could provide me regarding financial disclosure requirements applicable to this situation. It seems to me that if the federal government provides financial support for a radio program that is heard by hundreds of thousands of American citizens, then the financial transparency of that show's host is important.

In light of this, I would appreciate gaining a greater understanding of the NIH grants received by "The Infinite Mind" and the applicable NIH policies on financial disclosure. Accordingly, please respond to the following questions and requests for information. For each response, please repeat the enumerated request and follow with the appropriate answer. The time span of this request covers January 2000 to the present.

(1) Please provide a list of all NIH grants that have supported "The Infinite Mind." For each grant/contract, please provide the following:

- Name of grant/contract;
- Topic of grant/contract;
- Amount of funding for each grant/contract identified;
- Amount of funding provided in grant/contract for the host of the show; and
- Supporting documents on financial disclosure, pertinent to the grant/contract.

(2) Please provide a list of all NIH grants, if any, made to Dr. Frederick Goodwin. For each grant, please provide the following:

- Name of grant;

- Topic/purpose of the grant; and
- Amount of funding for each grant identified.

(3) For each of the above identified grants, please answer the following questions regarding financial disclosure:

- Please explain the applicable NIH rules on financial disclosure required for the grant; and
- Please confirm if the applicable rules on financial disclosure were followed by the grantee.

(4) Please provide a list of any other interactions that Dr. Frederick Goodwin has had with the NIH including membership on advisory boards, peer reviewer on grants, or other similar activities.

(5) Please provide a list of all NIH grants/contract, if any, made to Best Practice LLC. For each grant, please provide the following:

- Name of grant/contract;
- Topic of grant/contract; and
- Amount of funding for each grant/contract identified.

(6) Please provide a list of all NIH grants that have supported National Public Radio. For each grant, please provide the following:

- Name of grant;
- Topic of grant; and
- Amount of funding for each grant identified.

(7) For each of the above identified grants/contracts, please answer the following questions regarding financial disclosure:

- Please explain the applicable NIH rules on financial disclosure required for each grant/contract; and
- Please confirm that applicable rules on financial disclosure were followed by the grantee.

I request your prompt attention to this matter and your continued cooperation. I would appreciate receiving responses no later than December 3, 2008. If you have any questions, please contact my Committee staff, Paul Thacker. Any formal correspondence should be sent electronically in PDF searchable format to Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member.

GLAXOSMITHKLINE PAYMENTS TO DR. FREDERICK GOODWIN

| Year | Products | Topics | Speaker honoraria | Expenses |
|------|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|----------|
| 2000 | Wellbutrin, Lamictal | Depression: treatment and therapies | \$14,400 | \$2,400 |
| 2001 | Wellbutrin Lamictal Eskalith | Depression updates on treatments. Frontiers in neuropsychiatry | 24,000 | 3,100 |
| 2002 | Eskalith Wellbutrin Lamictal | Managing depression. Treatment for bipolar disorder and mania | 55,500 | 5,400 |
| 2003 | Wellbutrin Eskalith Lamictal BP | Depression. Treating mania and bipolar disorder. Use of Lamotrigine | 140,800 | 16,100 |
| 2004 | Lamictal BP | Bipolar I disorder: stabilization and treatment | 193,500 | 23,100 |
| 2005 | Lamictal BP | Strategies and therapies for treating bipolar I disorder | 304,500 | 24,900 |
| 2006 | Lamictal BP | Managing and treating bipolar disorder. National Speaker Series on Lamictal for treating bipolar I disorder. | 223,000 | 21,400 |
| 2007 | Lamictal BP | Treating bipolar and unipolar depression. Managing bipolar I disorder | 138,000 | 18,900 |
| 2008 | Lamictal Paxil | Managing and treating bipolar disorder. National Speaker Series: Maintenance treatment for bipolar I disorder. | 132,500 | 1,800 |

Total: \$1,226,300 in fees and \$117,300 in expenses for over 480 talks.

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,

Washington, DC, November 19, 2008.

Dr. ARDEN L. BEMENT, Jr.
Director, National Science Foundation, Wilson
Boulevard, Arlington, VA.

DEAR DIRECTOR BEMENT: As a senior member of the United States Senate and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Finance (Committee), I have a duty under the Constitution to conduct oversight into the actions of executive branch agencies, including the activities of the National Science Foundation (NSF). In this capacity, I must ensure that NSF properly fulfills its mission to advance the public's welfare and makes responsible use of the public funding provided for scientific studies and education.

Research and educational programs sponsored by the NSF may influence public opinion and can affect actions taken by the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

I would like to bring to your attention my concerns about the apparent lack of oversight regarding conflicts of interest relating to the almost \$6 billion in annual grants that are distributed by the NSF. As you know, institutions receiving an NSF research grant are required to "manage" the grantee's conflicts of interest.

In particular, I am concerned about a radio show that discusses psychology and neuroscience called "The Infinite Mind." This show, as I understand it, is independently produced; distributed to over 300 public radio stations; and appears on National Public Ra-

dio's (NPR) satellite channel. According to this show's website and promotional comments made during several of the show's episodes, "The Infinite Mind" claims to receive major underwriting from the NSF.

The host of the "The Infinite Mind" is research professor Dr. Frederick Goodwin. However, I have learned that while hosting this radio program, Dr. Goodwin also received substantial compensation from drug companies. In the fine print of an article he published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 2003, Dr. Goodwin acknowledged that he "has served on the speaker's bureaus of Glaxo, Solvay, Janssen, Pfizer, Lilly, AstraZeneca, and Bristol-Myers Squibb; and has served as a consultant for Glaxo, Solvay, Pfizer, Lilly, Bristol-Myers

Squibb Elan, and Novartis." For example, over the last seven years, Dr. Goodwin has received over \$1.3 million in speaking fees and honoraria from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) for giving over 480 talks. I discovered this fact through documents that I received from GSK.

For your review and future reference, I have attached a chart detailing the information that GSK supplied to my staff. Many of the payments to Dr. Goodwin were made through a company called Best Practice LLC (BP). Based upon independent research conducted by my staff, it appears that Dr. Goodwin founded BP along with several other scientists in the late nineties. It is my understanding that BP advises pharmaceutical companies.

As mentioned earlier, when one listens to "The Infinite Mind" there is an acknowledgment that NSF money helps to underwrite its production. Accordingly I would appreciate any information that NSF could provide regarding financial disclosure requirements applicable to this situation. It seems to me that if the federal government provides financial support for a radio program that is heard by hundreds of thousands of American citizens, then the financial transparency of that show's host is important.

In light of this, I would appreciate gaining a greater understanding of the NSF grants provided to "The Infinite Mind" and the applicable NSF policies relating either directly or indirectly to financial disclosure. Accord-

ingly, please respond to the following questions and requests for information. For each response, please repeat the enumerated request followed by the appropriate answer. The time span of this request covers January 2000 to the present.

(1) Please provide a list of all NSF funds that have supported "The Infinite Mind." For each grant, please provide the following:

- Name of grant and/or contract;
- Topic of grant/contract; and
- Amount of funding for grant/contract;
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- Please confirm that applicable rules on financial disclosure were followed by the grantee.

(4) Please provide a list of any other interactions that Dr. Goodwin has had with the NSF including membership on advisory boards, peer review on grants, or the like.

(5) Please provide a list of all NSF grants that have supported National Public Radio. For each grant, please provide the following:

- Name of grant;
- Topic of grant; and
- Amount of funding for grant.

(6) For each of the above identified grants/contracts, please answer the following questions regarding financial disclosure:

- Please explain the applicable NSF rules on financial disclosure required for the grant/contracts; and
- Please confirm that applicable rules on financial disclosure were followed by the grantee.

In cooperating with the Committee's review, no documents, records, data, or other information related to these matters, either directly or indirectly, shall be destroyed, modified, removed, or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee.

I request your prompt attention to this matter. In addition, I would request you provide this information to me no later than December 3, 2008. If you have any questions, please contact my Committee staff, Paul Thacker. Any formal correspondence should be sent electronically in PDF searchable format to Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member.

Attachment.

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Total: \$1,226,300 in fees and \$117,300 in expenses for over 480 talks.

I LOVE TO WRITE DAY

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate I Love to Write Day. The designation of November 15 as I Love to Write Day allows the Nation to focus much-needed attention on the value and importance of practicing writing skills at every age.

I Love to Write Day was created by Delaware author John Riddle in 2002. John came up with the idea for I Love to Write Day while driving from his home in Delaware to the Blue Ridge Mountain Christian Writers Conference in Asheville, NC. That first year, more than 11,000 schools across the country signed up to participate in I Love to Write Day events and activities.

Since Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner officially declared November 15th as I Love to Write Day in 2002, nine other Governors have joined in recognizing it, and more than 20,000 schools participated last year.

This year, Children's Way Foundation teamed up with Mr. Riddle to bring together 50,000 elementary schools throughout the country to provide students with the opportunity to

discover and develop the talent of writing.

John Riddle currently resides in Bear, DE, and knows the value of writing first hand. For the last 30 years, he has been a freelance author writing for magazines, trade journals and Web sites, and is the author of 34 books. He is a frequent presenter at writers conferences all across the country and spoke last year at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

Writing is vital to improve communication skills and to challenge minds. It is a skill that is helpful in every career and the ability to communicate effectively through writing not only enhances one's educational opportunities but also serves as a lifelong asset. It doesn't matter if you write a poem, a letter, an essay, or a novel; just as long as you are getting your thoughts down on paper you are engaging your mind. I applaud Mr. Riddle's efforts to get people writing and hope that I Love to Write Day continues to be a success throughout the Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ALAN AND MARILYN BERGMAN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an extraordinary couple in the musical world, Alan and Marilyn Bergman, who were recently honored by the renowned Paley Center for Media. Formerly known as the Museum of Television & Radio, the Paley Center for Media is nationally recognized for its efforts to engage communities in a dialogue around the cultural, creative, and social significance of television, radio, and other emerging media platforms.

This year, Alan and Marilyn Bergman are celebrating 50 years of a musical partnership that has enchanted and engaged people around the world. In honor of their extraordinary careers, the Paley Center for Media hosted two very special events to pay tribute to the Bergmans, the first in New York on May 21, 2008, and the second in Los Angeles on November 3, 2008. The two events were part of the Paley Center for Media's "Paley After Dark" series, which features only a select few artists each year.