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March 30, 2001

President George W Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

I am writing to urge you to bar the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) from filing any lawsuits and hiring any additional attorneys or managers until your EEOC transition team is in place. As you are aware, this parallels the situation in other federal agencies that already have transition teams in place.

Having served on the Committee with jurisdiction over the EEOC, I and my staff have had the opportunity to receive information regarding the agency's actions. I am concerned that EEOC may be setting goals for a certain number of lawsuits to be filed and pressuring attorneys to file lawsuits even if the EEOC has a weak case. It is possible that without immediate action by your administration the EEOC will remain focused on measuring success by the number of lawsuits filed, rather than measuring success by effectiveness in even-handedly enforcing the nation's laws. Chairman Ida Castro's statement in the BNA Daily Labor Report of January 9, 2001 that the number of lawsuits that the EEOC litigated in FY 2000 was "respectable" but "next year, I'm hopeful we can do more," seems to confirm that filing costly and time-consuming lawsuits is the preferred method of problem solving at the EEOC.

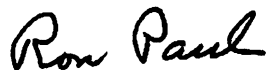
A careful assessment of the EEOC indicates that the number of lawsuits filed and trial lawyers employed has significantly increased during Ms. Castro's tenure. Since your inauguration, the EEOC has also implemented the "Attorney Honors program" to enable the EEOC to hire even more lawyers!

I am also concerned that the EEOC is not acting in the best interests of the American people by creating an Area Office in San Juan, Puerto Rico. According to information received by my office, the EEOC is advertising 14 positions for this new office, which is a significant number for an agency of the EEOC's size.

My office has also been told that the these positions were first advertised in the past week and are scheduled to "close" at a surprisingly early date of April 2, 2001. My biggest concern with this decision is that the EEOC does not even maintain an office in nineteen states! Creating a large office in Puerto Rico at a time when it is questionable whether the EEOC can adequately serve all residents of the fifty states raises serious questions about the EEOC's use of their resources.

In conclusion, I once again respectfully request that you freeze the hiring of new attorneys at the EEOC until your transition team is in place and that you take all action necessary to ensure that the EEOC does not file unnecessary lawsuits merely to appear "productive." I also request that you take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the EEOC use its resources in a way to provide maximum benefit to the American taxpayer. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,



Ron Paul

cc: Hon. John Boehner, Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce

Hon. Sam Johnson, Chairman, Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations