

9510 Tirana Place
Dulles, VA 20189
July 11, 2008

Congressman Henry A. Waxman
United States House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6143

Dear Mr. Congressman:

In your letter of June 23 to Secretary Rice, you made allegations of serious wrongdoing against me and members of my staff concerning the criminal investigation against the AEY Company. I assure you that those allegations are wrong in their entirety. Nonetheless, that letter was released to the press before it reached the Secretary, the other concerned parties, or me. Thus, none of us had any opportunity to respond before these groundless assertions were carried in the *New York Times* and other major media outlets.

As a matter of simple fairness, I ask the courtesy of a face-to-face meeting with you to present the true story of my Embassy's activities concerning AEY and to refute the unfounded aspersions that have been cast upon the reputations of an outstanding and dedicated cadre of public officials serving at Embassy Tirana.

As I am currently in transit, I have as a matter of convenience forwarded this letter through my attorney, Mr. J. Michael Hannon. If I might trouble you to respond through him at (202) 232-1907.

I thank you in advance for your kind consideration of my request.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Withers, II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Withers" being more prominent.

John L. Withers II
U.S. Ambassador to Albania