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AND THE CENSUS

ENERGY POLICY, HEALTH CARE, AND
ENTITLEMENTS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501
April 7, 2015

Michael H. Allen
Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Policy, Management, and Planning
Justice Management Division
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Allen:

I recently met with some of my constituents who raised concerns about the employment practices of a federal security contractor, Akal Security. My constituents have alleged age and race discrimination, wage theft, failure to comply with health and safety laws, and unlawfully limiting its employees' right to discuss their working terms and conditions with one another.

As you may know, in July 2014, President Obama signed the Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces Executive Order (EO) 13673, with the goal of ensuring that the federal government does business with responsible contractors who comply with labor laws. In issuing the executive order, the president stressed that companies with records of egregious workplace violations frequently also demonstrate poor performance. President Obama's EO reinforces the existing statutory framework that promotes responsible contracting. In sensitive locations, such as our courthouses, we should set and hold contractors to high standards of accountability. A federal contractor should have a strong record of compliance with labor laws and the laws that protect our citizens from discrimination. In issuing the EO, President Obama stressed: "*Responsible companies that follow the law are likelier to have workers and workplaces that provide a better return for our tax dollar. They should not have to compete on an unfair playing field with companies that undercut them by breaking the law. In a race to the bottom, nobody wins.*"

It is important that federal sites be protected by a responsible contractor. I urge you to make sure that all U.S. Department of Justice federal contractors have complied with the provisions of the President's EO.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Holmes Norton

cc: Carole O'Brien, Deputy Assistant Director for Acquisition and Procurement, Financial Services
Division, U.S. Marshals Service Headquarters

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